

**THE REGENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA
MEETING AS A COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE**

July 14, 2004

The Regents of the University of California met on the above date at UCSF–Laurel Heights, San Francisco.

Present: Regents Anderson, Blum, Connerly, Dynes, Hopkinson, Johnson, Kozberg, Lee, Lozano, Marcus, Montoya, Novack, Ornellas, Parsky, Sayles, and Wachter

In attendance: Regents-designate Juline and Rominger, Faculty Representative Blumenthal and Pitts, Secretary Trivette, General Counsel Holst, Treasurer Russ, Provost Greenwood, Senior Vice Presidents Darling and Mullinix, Vice Presidents Broome and Hershman, Chancellors Bishop, Carnesale, Cicerone, Córdova, Tomlinson-Keasey, Vanderhoef, and Yang, Acting Chancellor Chemers, and Recording Secretary Bryan

The meeting convened at 11:00 a.m. with Chairman Parsky presiding.

1. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Chairman Parsky explained that the Board had been convened as a Committee of the Whole in order to permit members of the public an opportunity to comment on University-related matters. The following persons addressed the Board concerning the subjects noted.

Committee on Educational Policy, Item 302: Academic Senate's Recommendations for Changes in Eligibility Criteria for Undergraduate Admissions

- A. Mr. Orson Aguilar, Associate Director of the Greenlining Institute and a UC Santa Cruz graduate, believed that the University was closing its doors on the dreams of students who were not elite or wealthy. He requested that a vote on raising eligibility criteria be delayed until its effect on poor students could be studied.
- B. Mr. Nathaniel Gilkerson, an elementary school student from Hayward, stated that it was his goal to attend the University. He hoped that the Regents would consider the impact of raising eligibility requirements on students who attend schools that do not offer advanced courses.
- C. Mr. Justin Kastenbaum, a UCLA graduate student and a member of the Greenlining Institute, believed that raising eligibility requirements would adversely affect students from inner city schools. He requested that a survey be conducted to determine the impact on the campuses of limiting admissions.

- D. Ms. Monique Chavoya, a graduate student at UCLA, believed that raising the GPA requirement for admission would have a negative impact on diversity.
- E. Mr. George Turner, a UCLA undergraduate and a member of the Greenlining Institute, believed that the desires of students should be taken into account regarding eligibility changes. He stated that if the University did not hold meetings for undergraduates prior to the beginning of the school year to address eligibility issues, his group would seek legislative aid.
- F. Ms. Linda Salinas, a UC Berkeley student, urged the Regents to support affordability and educational opportunity in order to prevent the University from becoming elitist. She believed that students were being asked to carry the greatest burden in the form of budget cuts.
- G. Mr. Vina Ha, a former UC Berkeley student, who spoke on behalf of former student Regent Justin Fong, stated that the Regents should scrutinize any proposal to raise the GPA requirement for admission. He believed that the President's recommendation offered a patchwork solution to returning the University to admitting the top 12.5 percent of high school graduates.
- H. Ms. Elizabeth Hall, ASUC Berkeley External Affairs Vice President, presented letters from faculty, staff, and students who were opposed to raising eligibility requirements. She believed the recommendation would harm motivated underprivileged students.
- I. Mr. Ron Fox, of the California Department of Education, spoke on behalf of State Superintendent of Education O'Connell, who believed that increasing GPA requirements would send a mixed and discouraging message that would inhibit diversity by excluding underrepresented students. He suggested that local admissions offices be allowed to choose from among an expanded group of students.

University-Related Issues

- J. Mr. Ben Bendig, a UC Berkeley student, stated that he was a practitioner of Falun Gong, a spiritual practice that had been outlawed in China and its followers persecuted. He believed that the University, through its joint programs with China, should work to support human rights there.
- K. Ms. Alicia Wang, a UC Berkeley student, hoped to bring attention to the persecution by the Chinese government of the followers of Falun Gong. She reported that even in this country Chinese and Chinese-American students felt the effects of this persecution, which she urged the University to counteract through its Education Abroad programs.

- L. Ms. Michelle Midkiff, a UC Berkeley student, stated that China's persecution of Falun Gong extended to UC campuses. She noted that the philosophy had been the subject of negative propaganda and that students were subjected to discrimination and prejudice as a result.
- M. Mr. Murray Morgan described himself as a former employee who had been treated unfairly after becoming a whistleblower. He advocated recentralizing the University in order to save money and avoid raising student fees.
- N. Mr. Jay Stagi, an executive board member of the Graduate Assembly, Berkeley campus, believed that a drop in the University's graduate student population is related to cost increases. He believed that by reducing administrative costs, funds could be reallocated so that graduate students do not have to bear the brunt of the budget cuts.

2. **REMARKS OF THE PRESIDENT**

President Dynes reported that Regent Kozberg had been appointed as co-chair of the Governor's California Performance Review Commission, which will look for ways to increase efficiency and reduce the cost of State government operations. He noted that Chancellor Cicerone had been nominated as the next president of the National Academy of Sciences. He noted matters of particular interest on the meeting's agenda, including a campaign launched by UCLA to attract private resources to help maintain its competitive position, the Academic Senate's recommendations for adjusting the University's eligibility criteria, and an update on the competition process for the DOE laboratory management contracts.

3. **REMARKS OF THE CHAIRMAN**

Chairman Parsky observed that the University faces many challenges. The erosion of the University's financial position needs to be addressed both in the short-term and long-term; deficiencies at the DOE laboratories must be addressed in order to strengthen the University's position with respect to competing for the laboratory contracts so as to preserve the University's unique scientific contribution to the country; and admissions issues include the need to address how to make it possible to maintain diversity and access while suffering from severe budget constraints. He believed that it was of the utmost importance to assess the scope of the impact the University has on the state as a whole in terms of revenue, financial contribution, job contribution, and its effects on individual communities and lives and to make the public aware of these impacts. He believed also that an environment must be created for making communities and alumni sufficiently knowledgeable about the University to act as advocates on its behalf.

Chairman Parsky noted that Regents, because of the length of their terms, have a unique opportunity to devote their attention to long-range planning. He reported that in the fall a session would be dedicated to examining long-term issues.

Finally, Chairman Parsky urged his fellow Regents to think about the legacy they would like to leave when their service on the Board is over. It was his view that one objective should be to foster dialogue, discussion, and advocacy, irrespective of individual differences of opinion, because being exposed to the divergent points of view of Regents who were appointed by different governors was healthy and reflected the differences that exist within the state.

The meeting adjourned at 11:57 a.m.

Attest:

Secretary