

The Regents of the University of California

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATIONAL POLICY

November 19, 2009

The Committee on Educational Policy met on the above date at Covell Commons, Los Angeles campus.

Members present: Regents Bass, Island, Lansing, Lozano, Marcus, and Reiss; Ex officio members Blum, Gould, Yudof and Zettel; Advisory members Cheng and Powell; Staff Advisors Abeyta and Martinez

In attendance: Regents Bernal, De La Peña, Kieffer, Kozberg, Makarechian, Nunn Gorman, Pattiz, Ruiz, Stovitz, and Varner, Regents-designate DeFreece and Hime, Faculty Representative Simmons, Secretary and Chief of Staff Griffiths, Associate Secretary Shaw, General Counsel Robinson, Chief Investment Officer Berggren, Chief Compliance and Audit Officer Vacca, Interim Provost Pitts, Executive Vice Presidents Darling and Taylor, Interim Executive Vice President Brostrom, Senior Vice President Dooley, Vice Presidents Duckett, Lenz, and Sakaki, Chancellors Block, Blumenthal, Desmond-Hellmann, Fox, Kang, Katehi, White, and Yang, Interim Director Alivisatos, and Recording Secretary Harms

The meeting convened at 11:20 a.m. with Committee Chair Island presiding.

1. **STRATEGIC PLAN PRESENTATION, LOS ANGELES CAMPUS**

This item, which was to be presented on the previous day, was not discussed.

2. **REMARKS OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNIVERSITY**

The President called the attention of the media to the importance of the recruitment of low-income students and the need for the campuses to have a diverse student body. He asked that they convey to the public the University's activities to generate financial aid for students in need. The President explained that Project You Can is a five-year, \$1 billion capital campaign taking place on all ten campuses to raise money for scholarships for students. While the campaigns will operate individually on each campus, in the aggregate, the University hopes to raise over \$1 billion dollars to help undergraduate, graduate, and professional students. President Yudof remarked that it was important that alumni and supporters understand that contributions they make are critically important to the success of the campaign.

The President moved on to discuss an important item not addressed in the public comment period, namely the proposed expansion of the Blue and Gold Opportunity Plan. The Plan would ensure that eligible students whose families earn less than \$70,000 would

pay no fees; the President observed that a significant number of UC undergraduates would meet these criteria. He went on to explain that eligible students whose families earn between \$70,000 and 120,000 would have half of their fees paid for the first year of the increase. Furthermore, nearly all families below the \$180,000 threshold would benefit from the Obama administration's higher education tax credit. The President underscored that the families that would get no assistance or relief would be those with annual incomes of \$180,000 or more; conversely, families earning \$70,000 a year or less would be completely covered and would pay no fees. Families with incomes between those amounts would pay modestly more, but not the increase that has been widely reported in the media. He stressed that the continuing message that UC is unaffordable will cause the University to lose outstanding underrepresented minority students. He asked the media to relay an accurate message to the public regarding the fees and the financial assistance provided by the University.

Regent Lansing remarked that the President's comments regarding public perceptions were accurate and that the situation with regard to student fees and aid becomes unclear even to the Regents on occasion. She said that compassionate reactions to the pleas of the students cause the Regents to sometimes forget that many of the students will be sheltered from the fee increases. Regent Lansing stated that the University has an urgent need to relay this message of aid to students to the public, including public service announcements (PSAs) that UC could produce itself. She suggested that the University also take full-page advertisements in many of the major metropolitan newspapers and clarify the situation directly, so as to protect student recruitment and the University's image. She urged the University to launch an aggressive PSA campaign, which could be placed for free, to take out full-page advertisements in newspapers, and to investigate internet advertising as well. Regent Kieffer echoed Regent Lansing's comments and suggested that the chancellors each establish an ongoing program with their campus newspapers to communicate the facts quickly to the students. Regent Lansing stated that fliers could be distributed as well.

Committee Chair Island explained that he had asked the President to make his remarks at this time so that his message could be widely broadcast to the public and media. He stated that the issues surrounding the student fee increase are very little understood, and that more needs to be done to clarify the situation for all potential students and their parents.

3. **APPROVAL OF PUBLIC PHASE OF FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGN, SAN DIEGO CAMPUS**

The President recommended that the Committee on Educational Policy recommend to the Regents the approval of the proposed public phase of the San Diego campus fundraising campaign, *Invent the Future: the UC San Diego Student Support Campaign*. The campaign, to be conducted jointly by the UC San Diego campus and the UC San Diego Foundation, has a goal of \$50,000,000 for undergraduate and graduate student support.

[Background material was mailed to Regents in advance of the meeting, and copies are on file in the Office of the Secretary and Chief of Staff.]

Chancellor Fox explained that the San Diego campus was seeking approval of the public phase of its fundraising campaign. The quiet phase was initiated in July. She stated that the campaign was not only critical to the campus, but also to the needy students at the campus, particularly underrepresented minority students. Chancellor Fox remarked that the campaign is a part of Project You Can, the systemwide initiative described earlier by President Yudof, and that San Diego had been planning it for several years.

In light of the State budget crisis, the Chancellor stated that the campuses must develop new sources of revenue and new ways to remain competitive. She noted that attracting top graduate students is critical to the University's research and scholarly success. In addition, said Chancellor Fox, the local, state, and federal economies depend on excellence from the University, and that the ability to conduct innovative research and retain high-caliber faculty depends heavily on the quality of the graduate students. She noted that the deans and faculty at the San Diego campus agreed that the University must greatly improve the level and type of support available to attract exceptional graduate students.

Chancellor Fox observed that undergraduates also need support; 64 percent of the UCSD undergraduate students receive financial aid. The campus has very few privately funded scholarships compared to other UC campuses, and must seek additional support to provide more scholarships and fellowships. The goal of the campaign is to raise \$50 million over three years, a shorter timeline than that of the Project You Can efforts. The Chancellor explained that \$36 million is projected to come as expendable gifts, with the remaining \$13 million for endowed gifts. She remarked that the campus would push for as much endowment as possible, because those gifts are permanent and provide a continuous stream of resources. San Diego's fundraising plan emphasizes fellowships for graduate students: 75 percent of the \$50 million goal will be for graduate support.

Chancellor Fox informed the Regents that the campaign has been endorsed by the campus foundation board. In its silent phase, the campus has already raised \$7.5 million, including a lead gift from a foundation board member. She stated that if the Regents approve the plan, the public phase would begin in January 2010. The plan includes donor cultivation, marketing materials, website development, and individual donor solicitation strategies. In addition, the campus has made provisions for a donor matching program. The Chancellor said that UCSD will provide block fund grants for endowed graduate support, and that the departments have agreed to use some preexisting scholarship/fellowship funds to match the first five years of payout generated on new endowment gifts for graduate fellowships of \$250,000 or more. This effort will enhance the immediacy of the award in a donor's name and will allow multiple awards for that donation. Similarly, she noted, existing unrestricted funds for undergraduate fellowships are being committed for a matching program for endowed scholarships of \$125,000 or more.

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the Committee approved the President's recommendation and voted to present it to the Board.

4. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the minutes of the meeting of September 16, 2009 were approved.

5. **ENDORSEMENT OF *PROJECT YOU CAN* FUNDRAISING EFFORT**

The President recommended that the Committee on Educational Policy recommend to The Regents that the Board endorse *Project You Can*, a systemwide student support fundraising effort designed to focus ongoing fundraising at all ten UC campuses on a united goal: raising \$1 billion for student support over the next four years. This effort to help ensure that UC remains accessible and affordable by significantly increasing the amount of scholarship and fellowship funding available to UC students will be conducted at all ten campuses, with assistance from the Office of the President.

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Upon motion duly made and seconded, the Committee approved the President's recommendation and voted to present it to the Board.

6. **ENSURING THE SUCCESS OF FORMER FOSTER YOUTH**

[Background material was mailed to Regents in advance of the meeting, and copies are on file in the Office of the Secretary and Chief of Staff.]

Vice President Sakaki informed the Regents that over 3,000 youth turn 18 and are emancipated (or "age-out") from the foster care system in California each year. Approximately 150 of these former foster youth enroll at UC each fall as new students. Since fewer than three percent of the foster youth population ever graduate from college, Ms. Sakaki remarked that ensuring the success of these students is a critical responsibility of the University.

Ms. Sakaki reminded the Regents that they last heard about foster youth in 2006, when only two campuses had formal foster youth support programs. Since that time, six other campuses have added foster youth programs, and the University has joined the California College Pathways Project, a partnership with California State University and the California Community Colleges aimed at increasing the number of California foster youth who enter higher education and succeed.

Ms. Sakaki presented the Regents with admissions data from 2008-09 illustrating that foster youth are more likely to enter the University as transfer students, are more likely to

be female, and are typically more ethnically diverse than the student population as a whole, with greater proportions of African American and Chicano/Latino students.

The Vice President informed the Regents that UC serves as an important stepping stone between foster care and independence for these students. When foster youth arrive on a UC campus, the University supports them by providing a safe and stable place to live, access to financial support, advisors and counselors for academic and personal success, and an engaging community in which to learn and develop. Of the services provided, housing is one of the most important. Ms. Sakaki reported that all of the campuses offer housing support to former foster youth over the holidays and between academic terms. The San Diego campus has a model year-round housing program that allows students to move in early, stay over break without additional charge, and to stay in campus housing over the summer. Ms. Sakaki showed a slide featuring a group of foster youth with Staff Advisor Abeyta, who is an advocate for their success and who co-chairs UCSD's foster youth program.

Ms. Sakaki observed that one of the many challenges facing foster youth is the need to support themselves financially while attending college. With no family to help them cover costs, they are eligible for all forms of financial support; in addition, 75 percent of foster youth at UC receive gift aid from other sources, many of which – such as the California Chafee Grant – are specifically directed at their population. Like other low-income students, former foster youth will have their fee increases covered by Cal Grants or by University grants and aid.

The Vice President told the Regents that most foster youth are first-generation college students without adults to consult for advice. Establishing a trusting relationship and having consistent and accessible contact with an academic advisor is especially important to them. Student Affairs staff assist foster youth with mental health needs and refer students to available counseling services. Faculty also become involved; Tuppett Yates, an assistant professor of psychology at UC Riverside, led the effort to develop a campus foster-youth support program. Professor Yates' research is at the forefront of studies aimed at determining how teenagers transition to independence after aging out of foster care.

Ms. Sakaki explained that foster youth who have had several family or group home placements may suffer from severely negative self-esteem and self-worth. Involving them in community service and leadership activities is one way to help them develop. Foster youth at UCSB mentor Santa Barbara City College students, a partnership that provides opportunities for service engagement outside the University.

Graduating from college is an important transition for all students, particularly in challenging economic times. Ms. Sakaki observed that foster youth do not have the safety-net of returning to home upon graduation. UC Berkeley's Cal Independent Scholars Network Program provides these students with career counseling services that help them develop concrete plans for successfully starting out on their own immediately after leaving the University.

The Vice President introduced Ashley Williams, a second-year student at UCLA and former foster youth, majoring in sociology and minoring in education. Ms. Williams is active on campus, and helped to establish UCLA's Bruin Guardian Scholars Program. Ms. Sakaki explained that Ms. Williams' story provides an example of the challenges foster youth face and the success they can experience with UC support.

Ms. Williams expressed her appreciation for the opportunity to address the Regents and told them about her background. A product of rape, Ms. Williams never met her father and was taken into the foster care system because her mother, a drug addict, abused her. She was placed in 26 different foster and group homes between kindergarten and the eighth grade, and attended 26 different schools. Throughout the many relocations, Ms. Williams managed to maintain a grade point average above 3.0.

Ms. Williams said that when she was 15, she met Jonli Tunstall, who became her mentor. Ms. Tunstall is the Director of UCLA's Vice Provost Initiative for Pre-College Scholars (VIP) Program, a program that partners UCLA with the Los Angeles and Pasadena school districts to help underrepresented minority students become eligible for UCLA. Ms. Tunstall guided Ms. Williams and provided her with a sense of love, encouragement, and unfailing support, enabling her to complete her first year at UCLA with a 3.3 grade point average.

Ms. Williams remarked that she was concerned that other foster youth might not receive the same support and assistance she did, which led her to assist with the creation of Bruin Guardian Scholars Program. This fall, UCLA successfully held its first Bruin Guardians Scholars reception. Ms. Williams stressed that the campus needs to continue to find resources and explore ways to help foster youth, such as contacting foster youth before they register, to let them know about the program.

Ms. Williams expressed grave concern about the effect the fee increases will have on the foster youth population. While she is aware that she and her peers would benefit from the Blue and Gold Opportunity Plan, she felt she needed more information about the fees and the repercussions of the increase. She stressed that the University must continue to provide resources and support so that foster youth can overcome their immense challenges in times of economic decline.

Vice President Sakaki thanked Ms. Williams for sharing her experiences and thoughts, and thanked Ms. Tunstall for her tremendous support for Ms. Williams at UCLA. She stated that Ms. Williams' success is exceptional; hundreds more foster youth will never make it to college. While the University is committed to ensuring outreach and support for foster youth, the reality of the fiscal crisis poses serious challenges to the maintenance or growth of the campuses' foster youth support efforts. Ms. Sakaki expressed her appreciation for the many foundations that interact with the University on these efforts, including the Stuart Foundation, the Orangewood Children's Foundation, the Walter S. Johnson Foundation, and the John Burton Foundation for Children Without Homes. She also expressed her gratitude to Regent Bass for her strong advocacy for the foster youth population.

Regent Bass stated that she had known Ms. Williams for several years and expressed pride in her accomplishments.

Staff Advisor Abeyta stressed that many campus staff go above and beyond their normal working hours to mentor and provide assistance and encouragement to foster youth. He noted that many foster youth end up incarcerated, and that an investment of funding and time in education can make a difference in that outcome.

Regent Lozano expressed concern about Ms. Williams' comments about the fee increases and their effect on students who are former foster youth. She asked that the appropriate committee investigate alternatives to ensure that special-circumstance students are provided for and protected. Ms. Sakaki said she would follow up on this issue, and that the Access and Affordability Workgroup of the UC Commission on the Future had also expressed concern regarding the issue.

7. **CONSENT AGENDA**

A. ***Establishment of Mandatory Health Insurance as a Non-Academic Condition of Enrollment for all Graduate Students***

The President recommended that the Committee on Educational Policy recommend to the Regents that the President be authorized to require proof of health insurance coverage as a non-academic condition of enrollment for all University graduate students, effective with the fall term 2010.

B. ***Designation of Sierra Nevada Research Station – Yosemite Field Station, Mariposa County, Natural Reserve System***

The President recommended that the Committee on Educational Policy recommend to the Regents that the Regents designate the existing facilities at Wawona, Yosemite National Park, owned by the U.S. National Park Service, as a component of the Natural Reserve System and named the “Sierra Nevada Research Station – Yosemite Field Station” with no change in the day-to-day management of these facilities by the Merced campus.

[Background material was mailed to Regents in advance of the meeting, and copies are on file in the Office of the Secretary and Chief of Staff.]

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the Committee approved the President’s recommendations and voted to present them to the Board.

8. **ANNUAL REPORT ON UNIVERSITY PRIVATE SUPPORT, 2008-09**

[Background material was mailed to Regents in advance of the meeting, and copies are on file in the Office of the Secretary and Chief of Staff.]

The Annual Report on University Private Support, 2008-09 was submitted to the Committee. There was no discussion.

The meeting adjourned at 11:55 a.m.

Attest:

Secretary and Chief of Staff