

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

November 18, 2014

The Regents of the University of California met on the above date at UCSF–Mission Bay Conference Center, San Francisco.

Members present: Regents De La Peña, Leong Clancy, Makarechian, Ruiz, and Sherman

In attendance: Regents-designate Davis and Oved, Faculty Representatives Gilly and Hare, Secretary and Chief of Staff Shaw, General Counsel Robinson, Vice Presidents Budil, Lenz, and Sakaki, Chancellors Gillman, Hawgood, and Khosla, and Recording Secretary McCarthy

The meeting convened at 1:35 p.m. with Vice Chairman Ruiz presiding.

PUBLIC COMMENT

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

1. Ms. Caitlin Quinn, UC Berkeley student and Associated Students of the University of California (ASUC) external affairs vice president, stated that the Office of the President had not been transparent with the UC Students Association (UCSA) about development of the proposed Long-Term Stability Plan for Tuition and Financial Aid (Plan). She expressed students' opposition to the tuition increase. She urged the Regents to work with UC students in advocacy to the State for increased UC funding, and to vote against the proposed tuition increase.
2. Ms. Iman Sylvain, external affairs vice president of the UC Berkeley Graduate Assembly, commended the University for its undergraduate financial aid policies, but noted that graduate students would also be affected by the proposed tuition increase. As tuition increases, the cost for graduate student assistants would also increase. Competition for these positions and the ability to join a research laboratory would be affected by tuition increases. An increase to Nonresident Supplemental Tuition would also be a problem for graduate students, many of whom are international students, and would limit departments' ability to recruit the best international graduate students. Ms. Sylvain stated that proposed increases to Professional Degree Supplemental Tuition (PDST) would effect students who want to work in the public sector, like public health or social services. She urged the Regents to vote against the proposed tuition increases.
3. Ms. Kate Mitchell, UCSF nursing and midwifery student, and UCSF Graduate and Professional Student Association vice president of external affairs, stated that UCSF graduate and professional students do not support the Plan nor the disproportionate PDST increase of 20 percent for graduate nursing students who already suffered an 8.5 percent

increase in the past year. She expressed concern about the lack of development of new grants or scholarships for graduate student nurses. Student debt would increase, which in her case already exceeds \$60,000 per year. Tuition increases would lead to higher healthcare costs for the public. She urged the Regents to vote against the tuition plan.

4. Ms. Audrey Combs, UCSF nursing student and president of the Associated Students of the School of Nursing, quoted Regents Policy 3103(7)(A), which states that “Any increases in Professional Degree Supplemental Tuition ... must not adversely affect the University’s commitment to access, inclusion, and keeping the door open for students interested in pursuing low-paying public interest careers.” The proposed plan would have such an adverse effect, since UCSF students’ debt burden upon graduation is already \$100,000 to \$150,000, while starting pay at a community clinic as a family nurse practitioner is about \$64,000. Students with such large amounts of debt cannot afford to choose careers in public health that would serve low-income populations. She urged the Regents to vote against the proposed increase in PDST.
5. Ms. Louise Cabansay, UC Santa Cruz student, UCSC Student Union Assembly undergraduate external vice chair, and UCSA undergraduate vice chair, stated that even though her tuition is covered by the Pell Grant and Cal Grant programs, she nonetheless has \$25,000 in student debt. She has worked one or two jobs her entire undergraduate career. She works as a resident assistant and many students express concerns to her about their ability to continue to fund their education. She urged the Regents to consider the University’s budget and the uses of revenue so that tuition would not have to be increased.
6. Mr. Alex Flores, UC Irvine graduate, described his financial struggles as a UC student and spoke against a tuition increase.
7. Mr. Hank Gehman, speaking on behalf of Californians for Sustainable Public Higher Education, stated that a lack of transparency regarding financing of the UC Berkeley Simpson Center for Student-Athlete High Performance and the Renovated California Memorial Stadium allowed the campus to undertake a project it never had the resources to finance. He said the campus has finally admitted that the original ticket revenue model would not meet debt payments even during the interest-only period. He stated that the Endowment Seating Program stadium seats are the most expensive in college athletics, even though Berkeley has a weak athletic donor base. Mr. Gehman said that these projects had been approved by the Regents without independent confirmation of the proposed financing model. Mr. Gehman said the financing model that would be presented at this meeting is not really a new model, but merely makes minor additions to the existing model, which still would not provide sufficient revenue. The University has claimed that no campus funds were used, but it appears that in 2013 without \$6 million of campus support, UC intercollegiate athletics would have been unable to make the debt payment. The model also assumes that costs will remain static, but in reality costs will increase. Mr. Gehman urged full transparency so that the Regents can evaluate the model and its assumptions.

8. Mr. Arman Liwanag, UC Irvine alumnus, expressed opposition to tuition increases because of their effect on access and affordability, particularly for low-income students. He stated that he had worked for the passage of Proposition 30 and hoped for an affordable UC education for future students. He urged the Regents to vote against a tuition increase.

The meeting adjourned at 1:55 p.m.

Attest:

Secretary and Chief of Staff