

5. INSIGHTS FROM UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA ALUMNI ASSOCIATION LEADERS

[Background material was provided to Regents in advance of the meeting, and a copy is on file in the Office of the Secretary and Chief of Staff.]

Regent-designate Torres shared that UC Santa Cruz Alumni Association's mentorship program focused on first-generation and community college students. He introduced the panel speakers: Regent-designate Lott, past UCLA Alumni Association President; Randell Rueda, UC Merced Alumni Association Secretary; and Kimberley Phillips Boehm, UC San Diego Alumni Association President.

Regent-designate Lott shared the work of the UCLA Alumni Association. In response to alumni requests for career support, the alumni association began considering how to serve alumni in their career journey in 2014. Since then, the alumni association created a program for alumni considering a career change, an event on women becoming executive-level managers, career fairs connecting alumni employers with alumni hires, and support for both recent and more experienced graduates. These initiatives were shared with other alumni associations through the Alumni Associations of the University of California (AAUC). At the latest systemwide career fair, more than 1,300 interviews were conducted within the first hour of the event, and many had job offers or call-back interviews. Events like this built affinity and support for UC, and it demonstrated the value of systemwide programming, without which there would be missed opportunities. Since Regent-designate Lott first served on the UCLA Alumni Association Board of Directors, UC has made great strides toward meeting alumni programming needs and desires. The UCLA Alumni Association Diversity Advisory Committee has evolved from addressing campus climate issues to a robust diversity and affinity network model to draw alumni back to campus and provide support. Alumni were interested in raising scholarship funds for diversity networks; academic support, mentoring, and career opportunities; and support in campus climate issues. These interests help connect alumni with current students. In the last year, the alumni association created the Advocacy Task Force, which partnered with UCLA Government and Community Relations, to train a group of volunteer advocates and identify a unified advocacy message. The alumni association was also working with the UC Advocacy Network (UCAN).

Mr. Rueda stated that UC Merced matched the national rates of first-generation college students. The nine older campuses have provided their support by sharing resources with UCM students and alumni. The UC Alumni Career Network has been integral to what UCM could provide its alumni, because the infrastructure at UC Merced was still developing. Last November, Mr. Rueda facilitated an Alumni Career Network webinar on career transitions that was attended by alumni from all ten campuses. Given the number of first-generation UCM students and alumni, the UC Merced Alumni Association was trying to help them feel integrated through a new task force model focused on meaningful giving, connections and mentorship, and community mobilization for local, national, and global impact. UC Merced looked forward to having its own representative serve as Alumni Regent-designate in 2022–23 and on the AAUC board in 2023–24.

Ms. Boehm stated that the UCSD career center was a part of the campus alumni office. The UCSD Alumni Association formed the Graduates of the Last Decade committee for the 39 percent of UCSD students who graduated in the last decade, between the recession and a pandemic. Thirty percent of UCSD alumni donors graduated in the last decade and were small donors, so advocacy and engagement were critical. Seventy-five percent of alumni sought career and professional development, and networking was important for first-generation alumni. The alumni association's regional clubs in the U.S., Europe, and Asia were offering more career and professional development programming. The alumni association offered networking before live events and launched virtual networking through Tritons Connect. In response to requests for mentorship opportunities, the alumni association launched small-group events with executive coaches and company leaders and promoted mentorship and other programming on Tritons Connect. Alumni were speaking to student groups. This coming year, the alumni association's Triton Leadership Conference was focusing on diversity, equity, and inclusion. Alumni were advocating on behalf of students on issues such as mental health, food security, job training, and access to entrepreneurship. UCSD was one of the top campuses in the U.S. for social mobility. The alumni association was working with local government and local biotechnology companies to provide mentorship before college, internships during college, and professional development opportunities after these students graduate. Alumni were being engaged at various stages of their lives.

Regent Lansing asked whether alumni associations could advocate for ballot initiatives or candidates. Principal Counsel Auriti replied that the alumni associations, as auxiliary organizations to the University, could advocate for or against ballot initiatives but could not use UC resources such as staff, facilities, and materials. They could use their own resources. Regent Lansing stated that alumni were a great source of advocacy, and alumni groups could help Regents who choose to advocate in a personal capacity. Regent Mart stated that individual alumni associations could take positions but not the AAUC, which was staffed entirely by UC employees. Regent Stegura added that the AAUC consulted with the Office of General Counsel and was told that the AAUC could not take positions for the reason that Regent Mart stated. Individual alumni associations make their own determinations in accordance with State and federal law. Regent Lansing clarified that she was seeking factual information regarding her conduct as an individual and as a Regent, and she was not taking any position.

Committee Chair Leib asked whether alumni were allowed to speak with legislators and whether there were sufficient resources to do so. He remarked that the strategy would be effective but would require quick organizing. Director of Constituent Engagement Deanna Berg replied that her office worked with alumni associations to send alumni to Sacramento to speak to legislators on UC advocacy days and had great success. Regent-designate Torres noted that this was not that effective because advocacy days only happened once yearly. He suggested establishing relationships with individual legislators through regular teleconference meetings. More people could be engaged more quickly this way.

Committee Chair Leib suggested that Regent Zettel, Regent Pérez, and Regent-designate Torres provide their insights as former legislators to alumni and State Governmental

Relations (SGR). SGR Associate Director Meredith Turner explained that SGR relied on campus governmental relations to leverage members of the campus community, including alumni, to engage with the Legislature throughout the year. In the last several years, campuses began to hold their own UC advocacy days from January to May, which allowed campuses to meet with legislators outside of their delegations and alumni legislators. SGR worked with a smaller group of UC supporters and selectively with campuses in fast-paced situations. Committee Chair Leib suggested that SGR work with Regent-designate Torres to connect alumni with legislators. Regent Stegura shared that the next annual alumni reception with legislators would likely be held virtually. Regent-designate Torres added that teleconference software could be leveraged for mentoring as well. Regent Lansing suggested that the Committee identify, with the help of SGR and the campuses, legislators with whom Regents could virtually meet over the next year. Committee Chair Leib stated that he would work with Associate Vice President Kieran Flaherty and former legislators on this and asked for Regent Lansing's help.

Regent Reilly asked about the biggest challenges that alumni associations faced and how the Regents could help them. Ms. Boehm replied that challenges included obtaining sufficient scholarship support for students and understanding of the breadth of student needs. Some first-generation students were using their scholarship money to support their families. These were nationwide trends, and the COVID-19 pandemic emphasized students' basic needs insecurities. Mr. Rueda stated that the UC Merced alumni were engaging in direct conversation with students in order to better support them. He called on the Regents to listen to narratives from their sources. Regent-designate Lott stated that addressing food and housing insecurity for students, ensuring their academic and career support, and engaging and focusing alumni efforts were challenges. Regent Stegura stated that Regents should learn student narratives by visiting the campuses and invited Regents to attend an alumni association panel or event. Regent Mart stated that he shared what happened at Regents meetings when he attended alumni association meetings. Alumni associations would appreciate hearing from Regents. Regent Stegura relayed the impact of Regent Pérez's visit at a joint alumni association and foundation board meeting at UC Davis last February.

6. STATE GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS UPDATE

[Background material was provided to Regents in advance of the meeting, and a copy is on file in the Office of the Secretary and Chief of Staff.]

Associate Vice President Kieran Flaherty stated that the State Governmental Relations (SGR) team reviewed over 2,700 bill introductions for potential impact on the University, tracking 480 measures deemed to have significant impact on UC, taking positions on 23 measures, and helping resolve many others. SGR supported five bills that addressed issues including expanding access to healthcare, training nursing students, student homelessness, and sexual harassment. Governor Newsom signed all five bills. Assembly Constitutional Amendment 5, which the Regents endorsed, qualified as a ballot measure to repeal Proposition 209. SGR sought and received Governor Newsom's veto on a bill regarding third-party arbitration for UC medical interns and residents challenging their

termination. SGR always endeavored to achieve a resolution before requesting a veto and would continue to work with the bill author on refining the bill. The final days of the legislative session were challenged by the COVID-19 shutdowns. Anticipated Cal Grant reforms might not progress, but the Legislature advanced COVID-19–related bills such as worker’s compensation and exposure notification, as well as policing reforms. The next biennium would begin in January 2021.

Mr. Flaherty thanked the Regents for their counsel and for speaking with the legislators. Next week, President Drake would attend the UC Legislative Roundtable online and meet with legislators whose district included a UC campus or medical center. Mr. Flaherty thanked State Senators Bill Monning and Hannah-Beth Jackson, who were leaving the Legislature, for their support of UC. The prior day, the UC Advocacy Network (UCAN) hosted an election webinar featuring UCI Professor Richard Hasen and California Chief Deputy Secretary of State James Schwab, and moderated by Jen Tolentino, Deputy Director from the Los Angeles Mayor’s Office. 150 people joined UCAN as a result of the webinar. UCAN Student Ambassadors were promoting voter turnout on social media and writing UCAN communications. The applicant pool for the 2020–21 UCAN Student Ambassador program was the largest ever, yielding 122 Student Ambassadors across ten campuses. SGR worked very closely with campus governmental relations directors. UCR Governmental and Community Relations hosted a virtual surprise party for State Senator Richard Roth and Assemblymember Jose Medina for their advocacy of medical education in the Inland Empire. According to the State Budget Act of 2020, UC would receive an additional \$471 million if federal appropriating new funding is enacted by October 15, which would be a five percent increase in funding over the 2019–20 fiscal year.

Regent Stegura praised the election webinar for being very informative. Mr. Flaherty stated that Mr. Schwab commended UC’s voter turnout efforts this year.

Regent Sherman asked about the impact on the State budget if federal stimulus is passed after October 15. Mr. Flaherty replied that the Legislature was not obligated to take action in line with the State budget. SGR believed that, in January, there was a strong likelihood that the Legislature would distribute any federal funding received. If a budget is out of balance, the State is required to rebalance the budget mid-year, but this budget already included projected cuts.

Mr. Flaherty remarked that UC had a positive trajectory in Sacramento. Legislators and the Newsom administration have come to support UC in recent years. He was grateful to former President Napolitano and President Drake for their efforts.

7. **FEDERAL ISSUES UPDATE**

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Committee Chair Leib asked how the Trump administration’s announcement that federal stimulus would be handled after the general election affected UC’s chances of receiving

additional State funding. Associate Vice President Chris Harrington replied that Federal Governmental Relations (FGR) was disappointed in this announcement. Democrats and Republicans in close Congressional races expressed their concerns to President Trump. Because of the financial impact to major industries, childcare, and State and local funding, there was mounting pressure behind the scenes to convince President Trump and U.S. Secretary of the Treasury Steven Mnuchin to resume funding talks.

President Drake asked what the Trump Administration would gain from taking such an unpopular position. Mr. Harrington replied that President Trump wanted the U.S. Senate to focus on the U.S. Supreme Court nomination. There was a very narrow window of time to complete the nomination procedure prior to a presidential election. There was a special election in Arizona that could affect these issues. According to reports, President Trump's campaign advisors and others in the administration were surprised by his announcement. Committee Chair Leib remarked that President Trump has changed his mind quickly in the past. Mr. Harrington added that Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi was receptive to UC issues, concerns, and needs. Her negotiating strategy was waiting for President Trump to return to negotiations.

Regent Muwwakkil asked if UC support was assumed with a Democratic president. Mr. Harrington replied that there were good indicators. Democrats have been committed to passing another federal stimulus. President Trump wished to return to this issue after the election. Market reactions and unemployment would drive these issues. The House of Representatives passed funding packages that included State and local funds, with strong support for higher education. UC already received about \$270 million in federal funding for campuses and about \$500 million for the medical centers, as well as nearly \$1 billion in Medicaid loans. FGR remained optimistic about a federal stimulus bill passing.

Mr. Harrington stated that a continuing resolution was passed, thereby avoiding a federal government shutdown and keeping the government operational through December 11, during which FGR would continue to advocate for UC priorities.

Committee Chair Leib spoke about creating targeted groups of Regents and chancellors who would speak to legislators. A discussion on community college transfer experience, particularly in the Inland Empire, was being planned for the November meeting. He and Regent Stegura were also planning agendas for future meetings of the Committee.

President Drake stated that hearing from alumni helped the University tremendously. He expressed his excitement for UC's newest Nobel laureates, an illustration of the fruits of UC's long-term investment in its future.

The meeting adjourned at 4:40 p.m.

Attest:

Secretary and Chief of Staff