

# THE REGENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

March 17, 2021

The Regents of the University of California met on the above date by teleconference meeting conducted in accordance with Paragraph 3 of Governor Newsom's Executive Order N-29-20.

Members present: Regents Anguiano, Butler, Cohen, Drake, Elliott, Estolano, Guber, Kounalakis, Lansing, Leib, Makarechian, Mart, Muwwakkil, Ortiz Oakley, Park, Pérez, Reilly, Sherman, Stegura, and Sures

In attendance: Regents-designate Lott and Torres, Faculty Representatives Gauvain and Horwitz, Secretary and Chief of Staff Shaw, General Counsel Robinson, Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer Brostrom, Executive Vice President Byington, Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer Nava, Chancellors Block, Christ, Gillman, Hawgood, Khosla, Larive, May, Muñoz, Wilcox, and Yang, and Recording Secretary Li

The meeting convened at 8:35 a.m. with Chair Pérez presiding.

## 1. PUBLIC COMMENT

Chair Pérez explained that the public comment period permitted members of the public an opportunity to address University-related matters. The following persons addressed the Board concerning the items noted.

- A. Elizabeth Geno, UC Berkeley staff member, spoke in opposition to reductions in pay for graduate student instructors, lecturers, and researchers, which she believed affected the University's research, teaching, and public service mission. Ms. Geno also spoke in opposition to reductions in pay for staff. She believed that heroic workers should be rewarded and that those who could not work safely should be made whole.
- B. Catherine Cooper, former professor at UC Santa Cruz, spoke in support of childcare services proposed in the Student Housing West project. Campus childcare was crucial to recruiting and retaining diverse students, staff, and faculty, but UCSC was the only UC campus without staff and faculty childcare. The Center would serve children in Family Student Housing and would be close to faculty and staff housing, as well as close to Westlake Elementary School. Ten other sites had been rejected because of financial, logistical, or infrastructure issues.
- C. Robert Singleton, UC Santa Cruz alumnus and Executive Director of the Santa Cruz County Business Council, spoke in support of the Student Housing West project. Students and community members were competing for a limited number of housing units. The City of Santa Cruz had about 65,000 people, nearly 40,000 of whom were renters. There were about 14,000 rental units, with a 1.4 percent vacancy rate before the COVID-19 pandemic. Santa Cruz had five times as many people

experiencing homelessness than there were available rental units. More housing was particularly needed as the Santa Cruz campus was expanding. He called on the Regents to approve the project.

- D. Eric Grodberg, UC Santa Cruz alumnus, spoke in opposition to the Student Housing West project. One of the stated goals of the project was to support the development of affordable on-campus student housing, but rent would range from \$3,540 to \$10,220 per month. Historically, UCSC charged rent that was two to three times the market rate in an expensive city. The campus must lower rent for this project, or it would not be able to house more than 50 percent of its student body. He asked that the Regents read a detailed letter he had written on this issue.
- E. Joshua Lewis, UC Berkeley student and UC Student Association (UCSA) Chair of its Government Relations Committee, spoke about financial aid reform. UCSA, the California State Student Association, and the Student Senate of the California Community Colleges formed a coalition to modernize the Cal Grant. State Assembly Bill 1456, whose progress in the State Legislature Mr. Lewis credited to student activists, would make the Cal Grant more equitable and enhance its role in a debt-free UC education. He asked that UC and the Regents partner with UCSA to advance Cal Grant reform.
- F. Ana Sandoval, UC Davis student, called for a food assistance program for undocumented students, who did not qualify for CalFresh, a federally funded program. Each campus had its own financial support program for undocumented students, but payment amounts and forms of payment varied. Undocumented students were among those prioritized in the November 2020 report of the Regents Special Committee on Basic Needs. She asked that the Regents help create systemwide food assistance program for undocumented students.
- G. Prabhdeep Rai, UCLA student and Chapter Chair of the California Public Interest Research Group (CALPIRG) Students, called for the creation of a systemwide grant program for affordable textbooks, which had the support of students, faculty, and UCSA. Ms. Rai thanked UC for its support of open journals and asked that faculty be given the option to use open textbooks.
- H. Micah Card, UC Santa Cruz graduate student, spoke in opposition to contracting early education services to Bright Horizons. Ms. Card was not a parent but lived in Family Student Housing and was deeply concerned about her neighbors losing access to proven, affordable, and trustworthy early education services. Ms. Card had previously been an early childhood educator in for-profit schools, which, in her view, made money by exploiting teachers and families. She believed that it was unconscionable that qualified, experienced early educators would lose their jobs.
- I. Jaryd Ulbricht, UC Santa Cruz graduate student, spoke in opposition to the privatization of childcare at the Student Housing West project. His toddler son, whose tuition was subsidized, had been enrolled in Early Education Services for

six months and was very happy. Privatizing the program could lower the quality of childcare, raise tuition with no guarantee of subsidies, and be detrimental to Mr. Ulbricht's education and graduate work. Student parents were not being prioritized but should be. He implored UC not to privatize childcare or close Early Education Services.

- J. Archana Reddy, UC Riverside medical student, shared how community partnerships contributed to medical education at UCR. The campus was committed to the medically underserved in the region, with programs such as street medicine and farmworker vaccination. The medical students and residents who participate in these programs received their training through partnerships with local community hospitals and facilities. Serving vulnerable populations broadened Ms. Reddy's perspective, and she asked for the Regents' support of these partnerships.
- K. Miriam Goldman, UCSF student, addressed student housing. Graduate students could not afford student housing at UC Santa Cruz, and UC San Diego significantly raised its rent. This affected UC's ability to attract the best graduate students, as well as diverse students. UCSF has increased its rent during the pandemic, and students were not able to change their leases.
- L. Valeria Orue, UC Riverside graduate student and Vice President of External Affairs of the UCR Graduate Student Association, spoke about the effects of racial violence and intergenerational trauma on students, staff, and faculty who were black, indigenous, and other people of color (BIPOC). Staff of color, especially women of color, were often tasked with creating programming to support marginalized groups at UC. This should be the responsibility of allies. Ms. Orue asked that UC create Regents policy for investing in mandatory anti-blackness, anti-racism, and bias training for students, staff, and faculty.
- M. Benjamin Cioppa-Fong, UCLA Santa Monica Medical Center nurse, spoke about emergency room management, which had not been responsive to staff concerns about patient care, patient safety, and staff safety. Staff experienced intimidation and bullying from management when they raised concerns. Mr. Cioppa-Fong stated that, despite signing petitions and meeting with executive leadership, staff's statements of their treatment had not been investigated. Staff now faced retaliation, and union leaders were targeted with disciplinary meetings.
- N. William Hollingsworth, UC Santa Cruz alumnus, spoke in support of the Student Housing West project, which reflected years of consultation between the administration and the student body, including students living in Family Student Housing. Student voices were heard. The proposal was not perfect but was necessary for students at this time. He urged the Regents to approve the project.
- O. Brigham Willis, Senior Associate Dean of Medical Education at the UC Riverside School of Medicine, spoke about State Senate Bill (SB) 379. The UCR School of Medicine was committed to addressing access to care for the medically underserved

in the Inland Empire. Without its own hospital, the School relied on partnerships with community hospitals to provide training. Through these partnerships, UCR served over 25,000 patients in the Inland Empire, a 27 percent increase over the prior year. Some of the language in SB 379 would affect the School's ability to sustain these partnerships. Dr. Willis asked the Regents to support these affiliations.

- P. Ria Mavinkurve, UC Riverside student and Affordable Textbooks Coordinator of CALPIRG Students of UCR, spoke about the high cost of textbooks, which was now exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic. She thanked the Regents for their advocacy of open journals and support for open resources, and she called for a systemwide textbook grant program.
- Q. Anel Laj, UC Berkeley alumna, questioned the delays in implementing policies in compliance with State Assembly Bill (AB) 697 and AB 1383 following the college admissions scandal. In Ms. Laj's view, practices related to the scandal had likely been going on for some time, well before it was discovered. The response to the State Auditor's report demonstrated a lack of respect for those who were harmed by the scandal. Now that the University was aware of the situation, failure to follow guidelines would become an intentional act. Ms. Laj asked for an update on campuses' implementation of AB 697 and AB 1383.
- R. Catherine Cobb, President of Teamsters Local 2010, stated that UC had not provided additional paid leave to workers for COVID-19-related issues despite multiple letters sent to UC leadership. Teamsters members had exhausted their paid leave hours and were in a COVID-19 work crisis. She asked why UC had not provided additional leave hours to members as the California State University had recently done. Ms. Cobb implored the Regents and UC leadership to provide additional paid leave to members so that they could continue to work, pay rent, maintain their health, buy food, and take care of their families.
- S. Jason Perez, UCLA staff member, asked that UC provide the promised 128 hours of additional paid leave. Workers needed this leave to care for themselves and their families during the pandemic. Mr. Perez was unable to care for his partner and other family members, who were either experiencing symptoms from the COVID-19 vaccine or sick with COVID-19.
- T. Krystal Cortez, UC Merced staff member and Teamsters Local 2010 bargaining representative, spoke about negotiations with UC regarding Administrative Officer 2 (AO2) pay. She stated that, for her position in the UC Merced Community and Labor Center, which disseminated information regarding the COVID-19 pandemic, and whose work had been published in multiple forums, UC proposed a pay range that was about 14 percent lower than the pay range in the region.
- U. Sara Crandall, UC Santa Cruz graduate student, spoke in support of the Student Housing West project. For Ms. Crandall, Family Student Housing was the only affordable option as a single mother with a daughter. The project's current proposed

location for Family Student Housing was spacious and would allow families to continue to have a sense of community.

- V. Somchate Wasantwisut, UC Riverside international student, addressed the challenges that international students were facing during the COVID-19 pandemic. Research was delayed, and students were postponing examinations and graduations. International students had the added burden of Nonresident Supplemental Tuition (NRST). Mr. Wasantwisut stated that international doctoral students should not be penalized for circumstances beyond their control, and he urged the Regents to extend the NRST waiver for at least one year systemwide.
- W. Measrainsey Meng, postdoctoral researcher at UC Santa Barbara, spoke in opposition to UC's funding of the Thirty Meter Telescope (TMT) project. Quoting the written materials for item P4, *University of California Efforts to Combat Climate Change*, Ms. Meng stated that research endeavors should not lead to climate injustice. Construction of the TMT was occurring at the expense of indigenous Hawaiian people. She urged UC to stop supporting the project.

## 2. REMARKS OF THE CHAIR OF THE BOARD

Chair Pérez began his remarks by noting that it had been a year since the Regents and the University quickly changed their operations in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. He thanked students, faculty, and staff for contributing their time and talents to mitigating the effects of the pandemic. He appealed to the UC community to stay patient and to take necessary precautions to protect itself, loved ones, and neighbors. UC must keep following science, vaccinate when able, wear masks, socially distance, and stay informed.

Chair Pérez congratulated Regents Makarechian and Sures, whose new terms were confirmed by the State Senate. He acknowledged Chancellor May, who received the Lifetime Mentor Award from the American Association for the Advancement of Science for his decades of mentoring students who were underrepresented in the science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) fields.

The American Rescue Plan from the Biden administration included hundreds of millions of dollars that would aid the University. UC Berkeley Professor Janet Yellen was confirmed as U.S. Secretary of the Treasury, and UC Berkeley alumnus Alejandro Mayorkas was confirmed as U.S. Secretary of Homeland Security. Chair Pérez expressed his hope that Title IX regulations, which the Biden administration planned to review, would be more consistent with UC policy, which serves as a model for other universities. There was also hope that the federal government might increase the Pell Grant award amount. Later at this meeting, the Regents would hear a presentation on UC's partnership with the UC Student Association on advocacy of such an increase. Also on the agenda were presentations on UC's leadership in climate change research and sustainability practices and on UC's social impact, contributions to the public good, and the value of a UC degree.

Chair Pérez welcomed State Assemblymember Jose Medina, who was speaking later in the meeting on how UC could work with the State government. Assemblymember Medina chaired the Assembly Committee on Higher Education and was an alumnus and advocate of UC Riverside, as well as an advocate of UC and of higher education generally. Assemblymember Medina cared about UC's academic achievements, transformative nature, and role in social mobility.

### 3. **REMARKS OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNIVERSITY**

President Drake began his comments by acknowledging the recent killings in Atlanta, Georgia, with news reports indicating that a number of the victims were women of Asian descent, and he noted a large number of reports of violence against Asian Americans. President Drake condemned these attacks and extended his condolences, stressing that overcoming racism required not only institutional change, but hard work from everyone. The University would continue to hold open conversations about these issues and work together.

President Drake welcomed State Assemblymember Jose Medina, who would be speaking at the Public Engagement and Development Committee meeting. This month marked a year since the COVID-19 pandemic led to widespread and disruptive changes at UC. Countless lives were lost or changed, and many struggled financially or with mental health issues. Students, faculty, and staff adapted to virtual learning, teaching, and operations with grace, patience, and resilience. UC rose to the challenge of caring for COVID-19 patients, conducting urgent research, and vaccinating its communities. To date, UC administered over 600,000 doses of the vaccine to over 360,000 people. President Drake commended frontline workers and the staff at the Office of the President. He thanked the UC community for its dedication, perseverance, and compassion, and he was confident that the University would come out of the pandemic stronger than before. Many counties were relaxing health and safety restrictions as a result of declining infection and hospitalization rates, but President Drake emphasized the importance of staying vigilant, especially as several European countries have had to reinstitute their restrictions.

He thanked the Biden administration, California's congressional delegation, Governor Newsom, and the State Legislature for their support of UC. The American Rescue Plan, a \$1.9 trillion federal stimulus package, would aid individual Americans, the national economy, and higher education institutions. The package would support the COVID-19 vaccine, testing and tracing, and workforce efforts, expand healthcare coverage, and support State and local governments. UC would continue to determine how this funding would be allocated. Passage of the American Rescue plan could result in the restoration of \$300 million deducted from the UC budget in 2020. Governor Newsom's State budget proposal in January included \$109 million in base budget funding, as well as one-time funding for capital projects that would advance the University's energy efficiency goals. President Drake expressed gratitude for the recognition of UC's research, health care, and education missions, one-time federal funding, and proposed State support.

President Drake noted that the second day of the Campus Safety Symposium was forthcoming, and he expressed appreciation for the tremendous interest and focus of the UC community. In his view, broad community engagement gave UC the best chance of achieving a meaningful outcome. The University, tasked with respectfully and carefully processing diverse perspectives and experiences, wished to issue an action plan in the summer. These efforts had one guiding principle, seeking a safer, more respectful University community.

President Drake announced that the University entered into an open access agreement with Elsevier, the largest of its kind in North America to date, which would make more of UC's research available worldwide immediately and at no cost. The pandemic has highlighted the critical need for international research collaboration.

4. **REMARKS OF THE CHAIR OF THE ACADEMIC SENATE**

Faculty Representative Gauvain described the quality of a UC education using the metaphor of a three-legged stool. One leg of the stool was the transmission of disciplinary knowledge, such as core concepts, skills and tools for developing that knowledge, and problems being solved. At UC, undergraduate and graduate students were learning about and practicing their chosen fields of study in both formal and informal settings, using methods of inquiry to analyze and critique the knowledge they acquired. Many undergraduate students were involved with research, which led to insight and innovation and through which they shared ideas and received feedback. The University was trying to augment this apprenticeship model approach, which was challenged, given the balance of resources and capacity. The student-faculty ratio at UC has been steadily increasing; this was not favorable to student learning.

Another leg of the stool was transformation. The UC experience transformed students from receivers of knowledge to those who could use knowledge to solve problems. UC graduates were sought throughout the state for many occupations and academic programs. Their creative and flexible use of knowledge was necessary for addressing both long-standing and new problems. The in-person nature of a UC education was essential; students were learning in classrooms and laboratories, as well as in dormitories, coffee houses, and lecture events. The last year revealed that online pedagogy had some benefits, but it was an inadequate version of a high-quality education.

The third leg of the stool was confidence, such as what is borne out of firsthand experience over a long period of time. At UC, students built self-confidence when they mastered complex material, engaged in collaborative research, and helped their peers. A three-legged stool is more stable than one with four legs when the surface is uneven, which Ms. Gauvain compared to the COVID-19 pandemic. Faculty, students, and staff were eager to return to campus but had legitimate concerns. They must be involved in planning this return as principal occupiers of the campus space. Some things were likely to change, but UC must learn how to change without losing its core values and take stock of what it already had and hoped to have.

Ms. Gauvain cautioned against comparative and competitive thinking regarding the segments of public higher education. She praised all three segments; each one's purpose and work differed, and no one segment was better than the other. Their differences complemented each other, and each was of great value to the state and its people. The public trusted each segment to carry out its mission in the best way that it could. The future of California depended on this.

The meeting adjourned at 9:40 p.m.

Attest:

The Secretary and Chief of Staff

Pending Approval