

# THE REGENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

January 18, 2022

The Regents of the University of California met on the above date by teleconference meeting conducted in accordance with California Government Code §§ 11133.

Members present: Regents Drake, Estolano, Guber, Hernandez, Kounalakis, Lansing, Leib, Lott, Park, Pérez, Reilly, Sherman, Sures, and Zaragoza

In attendance: Regents-designate Blas Pedral and Timmons, Faculty Representatives Horwitz and Cochran, Secretary and Chief of Staff Shaw, General Counsel Robinson, Provost Brown, Executive Vice President Byington, Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer Nava, Vice President Lloyd, Chancellors Block, Hawgood, Khosla, Larive, Muñoz, and Wilcox, and Recording Secretary Li

The meeting convened at 2:40 p.m. with Chair Estolano presiding.

## 1. PUBLIC COMMENT

Chair Estolano 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. Yoram Cohen, UCLA professor, expressed concern about a statement posted on the UCLA Department of Asian American Studies website in May 2021. Mr. Cohen stated that this statement was offensive and violated UCLA Policy 110: Use of the University's Names, Seals, and UCLA Trademarks and California Education Code Section 92000. He implored the Regents to denounce this conduct and ensure that UC academic departments adhere to UC policy and State law. In his view, the UCLA Department of Asian American Studies implied that Jewish people engaged in settler colonialism, racial apartheid, and occupation. He regarded this statement as an act of anti-Zionism and antisemitism.
- B. Leonard Kleinrock, UCLA professor, expressed concern about the statement posted on the UCLA Department of Asian American Studies website in May 2021. He stated that department leaders improperly used their authority and UCLA's name. In his view, such messaging implied that Jewish Americans engaged in racial apartheid, and it denigrated the cooperation between UCLA and Israel. He added that this type of commentary led to events such as the recent hostage standoff at a Texas synagogue. He urged the Regents to release a statement rejecting the actions of the UCLA Department of Asian American Studies.
- C. Monica Nelson, UC San Diego graduate student, stated that the Annual Report on Sustainable Practices fell short of what UC could and should be achieving. The University has emitted one million tons of carbon dioxide annually for the last ten

years. Ms. Nelson expressed concern that UC was relying on carbon offsets to reach its 2025 carbon neutrality goal instead of making on-campus emissions reductions. As a leading academic institution and one of the largest employers in the state, UC had an obligation to decrease its carbon emissions. She called on the Regents and President Drake to establish actionable milestones for the next decade in UC's climate action plan instead of using dubious carbon offset schemes.

- D. Liza Mamedov-Turchinsky, disabled UC Berkeley student, called for equitable hybrid class options, mandatory COVID-19 testing, and transparent thresholds for weekly COVID-19 cases that would trigger emergency class closures. She shared that she would need to withdraw from UCB and delay her graduation if she had to attend classes in person, but she relied on the UC Student Health Insurance Plan. COVID-19 disproportionately affected students who were non-white, low-income, or affected by the carceral system, and the long-term effects of COVID-19, which were now recognized as a disability under the Americans with Disabilities Act, could affect thousands of UC students. Ms. Mamedov-Turchinsky stated that no disability policy should be written without disabled students' input.
- E. James Weichert, UC Berkeley student and UC Student Association University Affairs Committee Chair, addressed UC affordability. According to the 2020 UC Undergraduate Experience Survey, 50 percent of respondents were concerned about the affordability of a UC education. More work needed to be done to achieve an affordable and debt-free pathway for every student. He encouraged the Regents to consider a reduction in the self-help contribution amount for the lowest-income students and increasing available grant aid, both of which could open UC to thousands more students across California.
- F. Judea Pearl, UCLA professor, expressed revulsion at the statement posted on the UCLA Department of Asian American Studies website in May 2021, which he regarded as a violation of campus discourse norms and a character assassination of students and faculty whose identities were bound to Israel. He urged the Regents to issue a public statement denouncing anti-Zionism and reaffirming academic collaborations with Israel.
- G. Kyle French, UC Davis Health nurse, spoke about ongoing staffing issues at UC Davis Medical Center. Despite hiring hundreds of nurses, staffing remained inadequate due to retention issues and nurses becoming sick. UC Davis management was exacerbating problems by opening new areas of the hospital, expanding surgery schedules, and prioritizing profits over patients. UC Davis Medical Center was the only one in the UC system that did not offer incentives to nurses to work extra shifts. On January 8, UC Davis nurses were instructed to come to work if they were COVID-positive and asymptomatic. Nurses demanded that UC never implement such dangerous guidelines again.
- H. Varykina Thackray, UCSD professor and member of the Green New Deal at UCSD, addressed item B4, *Annual Report on Sustainable Practices*. She stated

that, despite the University declaring a climate emergency in 2019, UC emitted over one million tons of carbon dioxide, and emissions had not decreased in the past ten years. She stated that the University had an obligation to reduce its own emissions to help address the climate crisis. She urged the Regents and President Drake to change UC climate goals to defined, actionable milestones instead of deploying dubious offset schemes, and to prioritize funding for electrification plans for all ten campuses this year.

- I. Megan Lynch, UC Davis student, stated that item A6, *Update on Supporting Students with Disabilities at the University of California*, regarded disabled people as outsiders. In her view, if UC regarded disabled people as members of the public, accessibility would be in the initial budget of any endeavor, and a minimum of accessibility would be standard systemwide. She stated that UC subjected disabled people to expensive, exhausting, humiliating, and sometimes traumatic steps to determine whether they deserved accessibility. She called for the inclusion of disabled students in decision making, which would be more effective and efficient.
- J. Adam Cooper, UCSD student, called for a commitment to decarbonizing UC. He stated that the University's pledge to reduce net greenhouse gas emissions to 1990 levels was only achieved because the pandemic led to reduced Scope 3 emissions and dubious carbon offsets were factored. UC needed a zero-carbon pledge and a plan to decommission on-campus methane power plants. He asked that UC advocate for students in the State budget process.
- K. Maxwell Lyons, UCSD student, urged the University to make concrete plans toward a fossil-free UC. He remarked that the University had not taken the drastic climate action it had promised in 2019. Mr. Lyons appealed to the University's responsibility to the UC community and California taxpayers, and he implored UC to move away from net neutrality toward freedom from fossil fuels.
- L. Radha Patel, UCLA student and the UCLA chapter chair of California Public Interest Research Group (CALPIRG) Students, spoke about the group's efforts to make textbooks more affordable. She shared that 63 percent of college students reported not buying or renting textbooks. Governor Newsom's proposed 2022 State budget included a plan to lower the cost of textbooks. A systemwide grant-funded program for open textbooks would make materials less expensive or free for students. The program had the support of 5,123 students and 183 faculty members, and the UC Student Association also passed a resolution in support as well.
- M. Libby Oren, UC Santa Cruz student, urged the Regents to expedite the transition to a fossil-free UC, to develop actionable milestones to achieve the reduction of carbon emissions instead of using carbon offset schemes, and for the electrification of UC campuses. She also asked the Regents to reconsider growth plans at UCSC.
- N. Susan Orlofsky, UCSD alumna and member of the Green New Deal at UCSD, called on the University to change its climate action goals. UC's annual carbon

dioxide emissions had not decreased in the past ten years. She stated that UC must develop actionable milestones through 2030 to achieve carbon emissions reduction to carbon zero instead of relying on dubious carbon offset schemes. UC should also prioritize shovel-ready plans for campus electrification with funds proposed in the 2022 State budget.

- O. Kiersten Clickner, UCSF nurse and member of the California Nurses Association, stated that UC was exacerbating a staffing crisis at its hospitals. Nurses called on UC to end its just-in-time emergency staffing model, end elective surgeries, and rescind the announcement that asymptomatic, COVID-positive, or exposed healthcare workers would be compelled to work without testing and quarantine, per guidance of the California Department of Public Health. She stated that Regents, the University, and Governor Newsom were prioritizing the needs of healthcare corporations over the safety of patients and nurses.

Regent Sures noted that a number of Regents were aware of the statement of solidarity with Palestine that was posted on the UCLA Department of Asian American Studies website. In his view, it was inappropriate to use UC websites to make political statements, and he believed it was a violation of University policy. Regent Sures suggested that a working group be formed to define University policy regarding such statements. Chair Estolano stated that she and Regent Sures could discuss whether this issue should be added to the agenda of a future meeting.

Regent Lansing stated her belief that there was UC policy regarding antisemitism and that this statement violated that policy.

The meeting adjourned at 3:10 p.m.

Attest:

The Secretary and Chief of Staff