

The Regents of the University of California

HEALTH SERVICES COMMITTEE

December 14, 2022

The Health Services Committee met on the above date at the Luskin Conference Center, Los Angeles campus.

Members present: Regents Guber, Pérez, Reilly, Sherman, and Sures; Ex officio members Drake and Leib; Chancellor Block

In attendance: Regent Hernandez, Regent-designate Tesfai, Faculty Representatives Cochran and Steintrager, Secretary and Chief of Staff Lyall, and Recording Secretary Johns

The meeting convened at 1:30 p.m. with Committee Chair Pérez presiding.

1. PUBLIC COMMENT

Committee 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 Committee concerning the items noted.

- A. Wesleigh Gates, a Ph.D. student in Culture and Performance at UCLA, spoke on behalf of United Auto Workers (UAW) 2865 and academic student employees at UC represented by this union. Many UC graduate student employees were living on only \$24,000 a year in one of the most expensive states in the country. Ms. Gates emphasized that the role of the Regents is to advocate for the improvement of the University, and this includes the financial and physical well-being of those who make the University run and contribute to the quality of teaching and research. She asked UC to negotiate in good faith to help academic student employees earn a living wage with yearly adjustments, childcare support, and nonresident tuition supplements.
- B. Alyssa Duran stated that a public records request was made in 2019 for UCSF fetal tissue research records, which indicated that fetal organs were being harvested from aborted fetuses as old as six months gestation. She asserted that after fetuses were designated for organ harvesting, the abortion procedures used did not include digoxin. UCSF had declared that there had never been a live birth of a child from an abortion procedure, which was a statistical anomaly.
- C. Jacqueline Perez, an academic worker and member of UAW 2865, called on the Regents to demand that the Office of the President bargain with the union in good faith and meet the union's more than fair demands on wages, nonresident supplemental tuition, and childcare.

- D. Andrea Perez stated that in 2019, Pro-Life San Francisco requested public records regarding UCSF research and received copies of emails detailing which organs were being harvested from electively aborted fetuses. The abortion method used did not include a shot of the lethal injection digoxin. Ms. Perez asserted that UCSF was disarticulating live fetuses in utero or carrying out labor induction abortions, both of which are painful to the fetus. The National Library of Medicine reported that 50 percent of late gestational stage induction abortions resulted in live births when carried out without digoxin. While a UCSF representative had stated that the University had never had a live birth during any abortion procedure, this would be an outrageous statistical anomaly. Pro-Life San Francisco was asking for a meeting with Chancellor Hawgood.
- E. Jocabed Torres, UC Berkeley student, stated that she could not be proud to be a UC student if the University continued to engage in inhumane and unethical practices, using aborted fetuses for stem cell research. Her group had been requesting a meeting with Chancellor Hawgood for some time. She urged the University to stop this unethical research.
- F. Carlos Alarcon spoke on behalf of the Opportunity for All campaign, which would achieve the goal of a debt-free UC education by allowing undocumented students to benefit from employment and receive pay, work experience, and tuition remission. Leading constitutional and immigration scholars, including the deans of the UC Berkeley and UC Davis Schools of Law, agreed that UC was within its legal authority to hire undocumented students. The Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program was not meant to be the solution in this situation and would not be the solution because many undocumented students would not be eligible for the DACA program. Mr. Alarcon urged the University to expand employment opportunities to all students regardless of immigration status.
- G. Yvonne Ballesteros, UCLA alumna, reported that UCLA alumnus Eyvin Hernandez had been unlawfully detained in Venezuela. Mr. Hernandez had been a public defender in Los Angeles County for more than 15 years. She asked the Regents to contact the President of the United States about this matter and to do all they could to help bring Mr. Hernandez home.
- H. Kristin Turner, executive director of Pro-Life San Francisco, expressed her organization's concerns about the chance of borderline infants being abused under current University protocols and research that was structured to use elective abortions as an ongoing supply source. She described Pro-Life San Francisco's vigorous campaign to draw attention to this issue at UCSF.
- I. Regent Emerita Cheryl Lott related that Eyvin Hernandez received his undergraduate and law degrees at UC. He had spent his career as a Los Angeles public defender, fighting for the right to a free and fair trial. Since March, he had been wrongfully detained in a maximum-security Venezuelan prison. His case had been referred to the Special Envoy for Hostage Affairs. The Los Angeles County

Board of Supervisors, Los Angeles Mayor Karen Bass, and U.S. Senator Alex Padilla have urged congressional officials and the White House to secure Mr. Hernandez's release. Ms. Lott asked the Regents to consider what they could do to help this UC alumnus.

Ms. Lott also expressed her support for UCLA's move to the Big Ten athletic conference. This move would afford UCLA the ability to provide the mental health, academic, and nutritional support that student-athletes deserved, and in a fiscally responsible manner.

- J. Robert Byrd stated that Pro-Life San Francisco had received copies of UCSF consent forms and emails detailing which organs were being harvested from electively aborted fetuses, even at six months of pregnancy. After a fetus was designated for organ harvesting, the abortion method used did not include digoxin, a lethal injection meant to stop the heart, so that UCSF was disarticulating live fetuses in utero or carrying out labor induction abortions, both of which are painful to the fetus. According to studies published in the National Library of Medicine, labor induction abortions done at late gestational stages without digoxin resulted in live births 50 percent of the time. While a UCSF representative had stated that there had never been a live birth during any abortion procedure, this would be a statistical anomaly. Mr. Byrd requested a meeting with Chancellor Hawgood.
- K. Maison Des Champs, former California resident, stated that fetal tissue research being carried out at UC was a disgrace. The University should hold itself to a high standard of bioethics and set an ethical research precedent. He asked Chancellor Hawgood to contact Pro-Life San Francisco.
- L. Abraham Cruz Hernandez, UCLA student, asked the University to support and implement the Opportunity for All campaign, which would expand campus employment opportunities for non-DACA undocumented students. The University did not have to wait for Congress or the White House or until DACA was terminated by the courts to begin implementation and help its undocumented students, many of whom were already unable to access DACA. By providing these employment opportunities, UC could make historical headway in expanding opportunity and excellence.
- M. Denyz Melchor and others, advocating for academic student employees, intoned: "Shut it down!"

2. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the minutes of the meeting of October 19, 2022 were approved.

3. **UPDATE FROM THE EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT OF UC HEALTH**

This item was deferred.

4. **UC DAVIS HEALTH STRATEGY, DAVIS CAMPUS**

This item was deferred.

5. **UC HEALTH SYSTEMWIDE WORKING GROUP ON POST-ACUTE SEQUELAE OF SARS-COV-2 INFECTION (PASC)/LONG-COVID ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND FUTURE WORK**

This item was deferred.

6. **AFFILIATIONS WITH ORGANIZATIONS WITH POLICY-BASED RESTRICTIONS ON CARE: FOLLOW-UP ON CASE STUDIES**

This item was deferred.

The meeting adjourned at 2:30 p.m.

Attest:

Secretary and Chief of Staff