

The Regents of the University of California

**PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

July 19, 2023

The Public Engagement and Development Committee met on the above date at the UCSF-Mission Bay Conference Center, San Francisco campus.

Members present: Regents Guber, Hernandez, Raznick, Reilly, and Tesfai; Advisory member Steintrager, Chancellors Block, Larive, and Wilcox; Staff Advisor Mackness

In attendance: Regent Sarris, Regent-designate Pack, Assistant Secretary Bricker, Deputy General Counsel Drumm, Staff Advisor Emiru, Interim Senior Vice President Reese, Vice Presidents Brown and Gullatt, and Recording Secretary Li

The meeting convened at 1:25 p.m. with Committee Chair Reilly presiding.

Committee Chair Reilly welcomed Regent Sarris, Regent-designate Pack, and Staff Advisor Emiru, as well as Regent Rivas, the new Speaker of the California State Assembly. She highlighted several upcoming public engagement activities, such as the University's participation in the National Summit on Equal Opportunity in Higher Education hosted by the U.S. Department of Education; the opening of the new UC Student and Policy Center in Sacramento; workshops for elementary and high school students at the UC Merced Bobcat Summer STEM Academy; and the 4-H State Leadership Conference hosted by UC Agriculture and Natural Resources.

**1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the minutes of the meetings of May 17, 2023 were approved, Regents Guber, Hernandez, Raznick, Reilly, and Tesfai voting "aye."<sup>1</sup>

**2. A VIRTUAL ELEVENTH CAMPUS: THE IMPACTS OF UC EMERITI IN CALIFORNIA AND BEYOND**

[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.]

Interim Senior Vice President Reese shared recent public engagement efforts by External Relations and Communications and the campuses. Profiles of recent UC graduates were displayed on the University's website and shared with State and federal lawmakers. Federal Governmental Relations used social media to publicize President Drake's June visit to Washington, D.C. UC was among the first to join the social media platform Threads. Following recent decisions by the U.S. Supreme Court regarding affirmative action and

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<sup>1</sup> Roll call vote required by the Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act [Government Code § 11123(b)(1)(D)] for all meetings held by teleconference.

student loan debt, President Drake was featured in *The Washington Post*, *The New York Times*, and “Face the Nation” on CBS. On July 27, UC was partnering with the U.S. Department of Education to host a webinar on student loan repayment options.

Mr. Reese introduced the presenters, faculty emeriti who taught, conducted research, and volunteered in the community as members of the Council of University of California Emeriti Associations (CUCEA). CUCEA was a consortium of emeriti associations from nine UC campuses that fostered relationships among the emeriti associations and supported the welfare and status of emeriti across the system.

Jo Anne Boorkman, UC Davis Librarian Emerita and Chair of CUCEA, thanked chancellors and campus provosts for supporting the emeriti associations and retiree centers. She explained that the University conferred emeritus status on associate and full professors and was one of several universities that automatically conferred emeritus status to tenured faculty upon retirement. Chancellors also conferred emeritus status on some non-Senate academics upon deans’ recommendations. Emeritus status was greatly appreciated by faculty. Over 2,000 individuals, about ten percent of available emeriti, responded to the 2018–21 CUCEA survey, which revealed that the professional activity of emeriti was equivalent to a virtual 11th UC campus. Emeriti’s commitment to research, teaching, and service continued unabated despite their vulnerable status during the COVID-19 pandemic, and a number of emeriti received honors and awards during this time.

James Danziger, UC Irvine Professor Emeritus, shared that he, a first-generation college student who began his career at UC Irvine in 1972 and retired in 2008, has tried to remain active in all three domains of the UC mission. During his career, Mr. Danziger researched the impacts of information and communications technologies on government and work, and, in retirement, he has continued to publish papers and made three revisions to his book, “Understanding the Political World: A Comparative Introduction to Political Science.” Also in retirement, Mr. Danziger has taught classes as large as 450 students, guided individual study and thesis projects, and taught at Semester at Sea, a multi-country study abroad program. He also taught an annual course called American Metropolitan Politics primarily to first-generation students interested in public service. In this course, elected officials were invited as guest speakers, and students participated in a simulation of an Orange County Board of Supervisors meeting. He remarked that the pandemic made student engagement and class activities more challenging. Currently, Mr. Danziger served as President of the UCI Emeriti Association and has visited every UCI dean to discuss more effective involvement of the emeriti community. He has also served on the UC Washington Center Governing Council since its inception. Within his local community of Laguna Beach, Mr. Danziger served on the Parking, Transportation and Circulation Committee and helped conduct a cost-benefit analysis of the revenue generated annually by visitors. He concluded that his story was one of 200,000 from emeriti around the world.

Ellen Weber, UCSF Professor Emerita, shared that she practiced medicine at the Parnassus campus of UCSF for over 34 years and has worked toward the University’s tripartite mission throughout her career. She educated and mentored students and residents and served as the medical director, vice chair, and interim chair of her department. Dr. Weber

also served as President of the UCSF School of Medicine Faculty Council and on the Board of Directors of the Society for Academic Emergency Medicine. Her research pertained to emergency department utilization and crowding. In 2013, Dr. Weber spent two months in Tanzania teaching in the country's first emergency medicine training program at Muhimbili National Hospital and has since been invited to return every year to teach and mentor residents. With funding from the Dickson Emeritus Professorship Award, Dr. Weber was able to teach courses and workshops at other hospitals in Tanzania. She helped develop an open access research course that she taught at an African Federation of Emergency Medicine meeting. Dr. Weber has also remained involved in the UCSF Institute for Global Health Sciences and the Philip R. Lee Institute for Health Policy Studies. During the pandemic, she continued to teach via teleconference, co-directed the San Francisco Department of Public Health's (SFDPH) COVID-19 resource center, spoke at the COVID-19 Community Vaccine Ambassador Program, and volunteered at vaccination sites. Since 2013, Dr. Weber has served as Editor-in-Chief of the *Emergency Medical Journal*.

Ms. Boorkman reported that, according to campus advancement officers, emeriti gave \$236 million to the University from 2018 to 2021.

In response to a comment from Faculty Representative Steintrager, Ms. Boorkman stated that one could design one's own retirement. Mr. Danziger added that many faculty emeriti continued the activities they engaged in before retirement. The campuses welcomed their participation, and they have been able to make great contributions. However, emeriti did have the flexibility to decline activities as well.

Regent Raznick asked if CUCEA engaged in advocacy through means such as the UC Advocacy Network (UCAN). Ms. Boorkman replied that she would add a question about this in the CUCEA survey. She stated that emeriti who served on community or State policy boards provided advocacy for the University. Emeriti were also sharing knowledge from UC and mentoring students and younger faculty. Dr. Weber added that the work of emeriti that was not related to the University still gave the institution standing, citing UCSF's resident exchange program in Tanzania as an example. These connections offered educational, funding, and faculty development opportunities. Mr. Danziger stated that, when teaching, he was proud to identify as a UC faculty member and believed that this made an impact in his local community and county.

Regent Hernandez asked if UC emeriti were providing support to science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) teachers in the K-12 system. Ms. Boorkman responded that, according to CUCEA survey responses, there were emeriti who were active in schools in their community, with STEM being an important part of that. Dr. Weber added that the members of the UCSF community have engaged in these activities, offering ultrasound courses to high school students and engaging with students interested in studying medicine.

Staff Advisor Mackness remarked that administrators would benefit tremendously from emeriti's knowledge, experience, and longevity with UC. Dr. Weber stated her belief that there were emeriti who would like to become involved in this way but did not know how.

She suggested that UC invite emeriti to apply for openings in committees and initiatives. Mr. Danziger added that, during their meetings with UCI deans, he and other emeriti suggested that the deans conduct a survey of the emeriti from their schools to determine their availability, and that these surveys led to positive results. Ms. Boorkman stated that emeriti learned how to teach via teleconference during the pandemic and taught for their home campus and other campuses. She expressed hope that the UC Davis Emeriti Association would resume “Coffee with Campus Leaders,” in which campus leaders spoke about programs and the Emeriti Association shared its activities. This helped emeriti become acquainted with new deans and department chairs.

3. **UC NATURAL RESERVE SYSTEM: UNCOVERING NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS TO THE CLIMATE CRISIS AND EDUCATING THE NEXT GENERATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL 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.]

Vice President Maldonado stated that the University’s Natural Reserve System (NRS), a network of 41 sites that spanned nearly the entire biodiversity of California, had much untapped research and innovation potential for California and the rest of the world. Studying the harsh signatures of climate change requires systems-level thinking, and the NRS provided an important statewide research and innovation test bed for scientists, engineers, humanists, physicians, and others to study the impacts of climate change on biodiversity, health, and the human population. However, these disciplines had not yet been engaged widely. Systems-level study of the natural environment was necessary for climate mitigation, adaptation, and resilience, as well as economic and health security.

Steve Monfort, Executive Director of the Natural Reserve System, presented an introductory video. He shared that he was an alumnus of UC San Diego and UC Davis and, prior to taking this position, had spent 35 years at the Smithsonian Institution. Mr. Monfort recognized the NRS staff as well as the faculty who support NRS efforts. In 1965, the Regents approved the establishment of the Natural Land and Water Reserves System, as the NRS was first known, in response to concerns that development was affecting research. At the time, seven properties were set aside for student and faculty research. Presently, the NRS had a very different operating environment given the impacts of climate change on biodiversity, which was essential to the health of an ecosystem and to human society. Mr. Monfort emphasized that California had the most imperiled biodiversity in the country. The NRS mission was to contribute to the understanding and stewardship of the planet’s natural systems by supporting the UC mission of teaching, research, and public service. Nine UC campuses managed two to seven reserves each; as a system, the NRS had an opportunity to function at scale and answer questions about nature and climate. The NRS has since grown from 10,000 acres in 1965 to 47,000 acres, with many of the 41 reserves acting as field stations or gateways to up to two million acres of State, federal, and other partnership lands. Reserves were chosen so that all the major ecosystem types in the state were represented. Thirty percent of plants, 60 percent of amphibians, and two-thirds of birds native to California were found in NRS reserves.

Every year, some 4,000 researchers from UC and universities around the world come to the reserves and publish about 250 peer-reviewed papers based on \$100 million in grant support. In the last two decades, research at the NRS has focused on the impacts of climate on biodiversity and ecosystem function. According to a UC Santa Cruz study, field-based experience leads to higher grade point averages, retention rates, and graduation rates. About 13,500 undergraduate and 7,000 K–12 students visited the reserves annually. In Mr. Monfort’s view, the experience demystified science, imparted the intrinsic value of nature, and inspired students to make nature a focal point in their careers. The NRS engaged citizens in community science efforts and conducted wildfire research with local and tribal communities and fire agencies.

Since 2015, the UCSB-Smithsonian Scholars Program offered an intense research and mentorship experience to transfer-intending students in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) fields at a reserve on Santa Cruz Island. The 120 participants of the program had a 92 percent graduation rate, and the NRS offered paid internships to 45 participants. UC Merced’s Field Curious was a weekend immersion program at reserves at the Merced campus and Yosemite, where first-year students learn to develop hypotheses, collect data, and communicate findings. Mr. Monfort believed that the program could be scaled systemwide and beyond. He emphasized that the environmental fields lacked diversity while environmental degradation mostly affected people in poverty and people of color. The NRS also offered a systemwide, credit-bearing field course through the UCSB Education Abroad Program in which students engaged in nature-based work and career exploration at various reserves.

Stewarding lands on behalf of the State, the NRS was a Trustee Agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) alongside the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, the California State Lands Commission, and the California Department of Parks and Recreation. The NRS provided visiting faculty and students with assets such as accommodations and internet access and was a shared resource among all the campuses. In addition to the 47,000 acres, the NRS also had 320 buildings that needed management, as well as hundreds of miles of road and fencing. Funding was needed for machinery, equipment, and operational support, and there was no policy-guided framework for the NRS to access UC funding for these needs. A summary of studies conducted in 1998 concluded the same—that the NRS was a great systemwide asset that needed funding. Mr. Monfort was committed to determining how support should be divided among the campuses and the system so that the NRS is sustainable and can focus on mission-critical activities. Adjusted for inflation, systemwide support has been relatively flat for the last 30 years, while the amount of land under NRS management has nearly doubled. This meant about a 72 percent decline in dollars per acre, and campuses have helped make up for shortfalls. While there were many challenges, there were also tremendous opportunities. Internally, the NRS could be part of a unified approach to addressing the climate biodiversity crisis. The NRS could also be a trusted source of knowledge, be a connector and a convener of external stakeholders, and build strong relationships with the State. Currently, the NRS was working to join the California Department of Fish and Wildlife Climate-Biodiversity Sentinel Site Network, which Mr. Monfort believed would help achieve the 30x30 California initiative’s goals. Another opportunity would be accessing

bond funding from Senate Bill 867 and Assembly Bill 1567, which would enable the NRS to modernize and address backlogs and other challenges. Mr. Monfort concluded his remarks by inviting the Regents to visit NRS sites.

Regent Sarris shared that many Native American tribes were not only a source of tribal knowledge but also resources. His tribe, the Federated Indians of Graton Rancheria, co-managed Point Reyes National Seashore and regional parks. Regent Sarris asked to what extent the NRS engaged with the students and elders of local tribes. He noted the overlap between the fields of Native American studies and environmental studies. Mr. Monfort acknowledged that the NRS needed to improve its tribal engagement and access. The NRS was working to develop co-management plans for wildfire prevention and prescribed burning. In addition to campus support, the NRS needed more staff in order to improve its tribal engagement and K-12 programming.

Chancellor Wilcox shared his experience visiting NRS sites and encouraged Regents to do the same. There was an opportunity to meet staff, learn about the work being done, and see different parts of the state.

Regent Raznick asked if students were more galvanized to address climate change as its effects become more apparent. Mr. Monfort recalled the optimism of students from George Mason University's Smithsonian-Mason School of Conservation, who shared their wish to live meaningfully and to make a difference in the world. One must find a way to sustain that optimism. To that end, the Smithsonian launched the Earth Optimism Initiative to counter the negativity of the news cycle. Mr. Monfort wished to instill in students a solutions-based mindset early in their careers. He predicted that nature-based jobs would be part of a growing industry as climate change trickles into more aspects of society. Ms. Maldonado underscored that all disciplines needed to be engaged. She recalled that students were conducting research when she visited Big Creek Reserve the year after the Dolan Fire had affected the area. She believed that the NRS field course should be taken systemwide, because what students learn and what faculty discover could inform economic models and medical decisions.

Committee Chair Reilly asked about the general public's access to NRS sites. Mr. Monfort responded that, while the sites were established to be protected, some were open to the public through docent tours. The Stebbins Cold Canyon Reserve, for instance, was designed for public access and demonstrated the NRS' partnership with other landowning agencies. The Kendall-Frost Marsh Reserve hosted open houses, events, and activities. Some locations, like the Boyd Deep Canyon Desert Research Center, were less suited to public access due to their fragile ecosystems, and some parts were used by students while other parts were strictly protected.

Chancellor Larive praised the ingenuity of NRS staff who saved the buildings at Big Creek Reserve from the Dolan Fire by creating an irrigation system using a nearby water tower. She suggested that the Regents tour Younger Lagoon Reserve when the Special Committee on Innovation Transfer and Entrepreneurship meets at UC Santa Cruz.

Committee Chair Reilly invited Student Observer Celene Aridin to make remarks and congratulated Ms. Aridin on being elected as Vice President of External Affairs for the Associated Students of UC Davis.

Ms. Aridin began her remarks by noting that this was her last meeting as Student Observer and thanked the Regents for the opportunity to serve. She also thanked Committee Chair Reilly for her work in launching the Aggie Fresh pilot program at UC Davis. She expressed concern about the University's opposition to Assembly Constitutional Amendment (ACA) 6 and Senate Bill (SB) 525, stating that both bills would increase wages and improve UC labor practices. While the cost of living increased, workers were not earning enough to pay rent and other expenses. Ms. Aridin urged University leadership to listen to those speaking about this issue at public comment and asked that UC be held accountable. She also expressed concern about UC's opposition to Assembly Bill (AB) 1749, noting the decrease in the community college transfer rate over the last two years. This bill would help the University increase the number of California resident transfer students per the multi-year funding Compact with the State. She urged UC to reconsider its positions and to explore other options before issues rise to the level of necessitating legislation.

#### 4. 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 Kathleen Fullerton provided an overview of the 2023–24 State Budget Act. The University would receive a five percent base budget increase despite a projected deficit of over \$30 billion for the State. She expressed appreciation to Governor Newsom and the Legislature for their advocacy of this funding. UC received \$30 million to continue admitting resident students in place of nonresident students at UC Berkeley, UCLA, and UC San Diego. Language regarding transfer that was originally in the Governor's proposed budget was now in Assembly Bill (AB) 1749. While there could be new iterations of the budget as State revenues are finalized in October, many of UC's budget priorities were addressed. The University reduced its request of \$1.2 billion in capital outlay funding but did receive \$100 million for UCLA's Institute for Immunology and Immunotherapy, as well as funding for campus expansion projects at UC Merced and UC Riverside and UC Berkeley's clean energy project. UC also received funding to build previously approved affordable student housing. Ms. Fullerton noted UC's advocacy with regard to Senate Bill (SB) 77, a trailer bill that was expanded so that financial assistance could be provided to undocumented students.

Assembly Constitutional Amendment (ACA) 6 has been amended to require UC to adopt the same labor standards as the State, which were not designed to support the University's academic and medical enterprises. State Governmental Relations (SGR) was determining how UC would implement these standards. ACA 6 would also overlap with Regents Policy 5402, Policy Generally Prohibiting Contracting for Services, such that the State Personnel Board would be responsible for oversight of the University's many personal service

contracts. Some of what ACA 6 was attempting to codify was already included in UC policy or existing statute.

The University was close to removing its opposition for SB 27, which pertained to wage and benefit parity and contracting out, because the author of the bill has accepted many of UC's suggested amendments. UC was opposed to AB 504, which declared that sympathy strikes were a basic human right for public sector unions, and supported AB 1307, which stated that social noise should not be considered under the California Environment Quality Act (CEQA). The University was opposed to AB 1749, which would require UC to adopt the Associate Degree for Transfer (ADT), and was working with Assemblymember Kevin McCarty and Governor Newsom's office to reach a consensus. The University did not take issue with simplifying the transfer process, but the bill as written might not be compatible with UC. There would be no further action taken this year on AB 252, which was now a two-year bill. UC was concerned that AB 252 would have a negative impact on student athletics. The University was opposed to SB 525, which would set a \$25 per hour minimum wage. UC took issue with complexities related to minimum salary thresholds for exempt employees, as most UC employees were earning \$25 per hour.

SGR was building relationships with new legislators with the hope of future collaboration and would continue advocacy related to AB 252 and ACA 6. Ms. Fullerton thanked the Regents for their partnership in direct advocacy.

Regent Tesfai asked how SGR planned to engage legislators regarding AB 1749. He and other student leaders were concerned about the Byzantine nature of the transfer process. Ms. Fullerton responded that SGR planned to determine where the State and UC were in agreement and to seek amendments to the bill. For instance, the ADT could be introduced through a smaller-scale pilot program. At present, both UC and the State agreed to streamline the transfer process and possibly include an admission guarantee.

Faculty Representative Steintrager explained that, due to certain restrictions, the ADT did not allow students to prepare appropriately for many UC majors. Regent Tesfai expressed agreement that one could not take a "one size fits all" approach to transfer but noted the multiple pathways and courses currently being required of students. Mr. Steintrager shared the Academic Senate's position that there were crucial differences between California State University and UC majors, especially those in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM). In his view, a "one size fits all" approach would not serve students transferring to either system.

Regent Hernandez asked about complexities related to minimum salary thresholds for exempt employees that has led UC to oppose SB 525. Ms. Fullerton replied that, for medical students who were also employees, time was tracked differently. SB 525 as currently written would create significant challenges for UC medical education.

Regent Raznick asked how the UC community could support the University's various initiatives. Ms. Fullerton replied that one could participate in advocacy days, small group meetings with legislators, or policy discussions at UC Center Sacramento.



The meeting adjourned at 3:05 p.m.

Attest:

Secretary and Chief of Staff