

The Regents of the University of California

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

November 13, 2024

The Public Engagement and Development Committee met on the above date at the UCSF-Mission Bay Conference Center, San Francisco campus and by teleconference meeting conducted in accordance with California Government Code §§ 11133.

Members present: Regents Hernandez, Kounalakis, Lee, Robinson, Salazar, and Sarris; Advisory members Brooks, Komoto, Palazoglu, and Wang; Chancellors Lyons, May, and Muñoz; Staff Advisor Emiru

In attendance: Regent Beharry, Regents Analyst Sheridan, Deputy General Counsel Woodall, Interim Senior Vice President Turner, Interim Chancellor Hunt, and Recording Secretary Li

The meeting convened at 2:30 p.m. with Committee Chair Sarris presiding.

Committee Chair Sarris began his remarks by acknowledging the results of the U.S. presidential election. He stated that the University of California would remain committed to its students and its mission of teaching, research, and public service, and this Committee played a large role in that. UC would continue to remain a locus of critical thought, reflection, and movement forward in society.

Committee Chair Sarris congratulated the five UC-affiliated Nobel Prize winners: Gary Ruvkun, David Baker, Geoffrey Hinton, John Hopfield, and James Robinson. Each have spent significant parts of their careers at UC as students, researchers, or faculty. Committee Chair Sarris commended those who advocated for State Assembly Bill 3059, which establishes parity of insurance coverage for medically necessary donor milk. The bill, authored by State Assemblymember Akilah Weber and sponsored by the University, was signed by Governor Newsom in September and exemplified UC's ongoing commitment to advancing equity across California. In early October, thousands of sports fans gathered at Memorial Glade on the Berkeley campus during ESPN's "College GameDay" broadcast, which included a guest appearance from UCB alumnus and former professional football player Marshawn Lynch and UCB sophomore Daniel Villaseñor, whose 33-yard field goal won a \$100,000 prize and a \$600,000 donation toward Hurricane Helene relief efforts. Social media posts of the event received 30 million impressions.

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the minutes of the meeting of July 17, 2024 were approved, Regents Hernandez, Kounalakis, Lee, Robinson, Salazar, and Sarris voting "aye."¹

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

2. **UPDATE FROM THE INTERIM SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT OF EXTERNAL RELATIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS**

[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 Turner shared that External Relations and Communications (ER&C) has engaged in extensive scenario planning in anticipation of the U.S. presidential election results and were now identifying possible impacts on the University and responsive strategies. As part of UC's nonpartisan "get out of the vote" effort, ER&C worked with students to create targeted messaging using the theme, "College is hard; voting is easy." Through the UC Advocacy Network, ER&C also partnered with the UC Student Association, the UC Graduate and Professional Council, Student Regents, and the Alumni Associations of UC on voter turnout efforts. The Office of State Governmental Relations and the Office of Federal Governmental Relations delivered UC "get out the vote" materials to California congressional delegation offices and State legislative offices. ER&C achieved nearly 500,000 impressions and 7,000 engagements via social media, as well as 8,500 internal engagements from UC staff. President Drake recently completed an alumni engagement trip in Japan, meeting with over 175 attendees at a systemwide alumni event, the first such alumni event in Japan. Alumni expressed gratitude for the event and a strong desire to continue alumni engagement in Japan. ER&C recently collaborated with Graduate, Undergraduate and Equity Affairs to launch an online transfer hub, which offered information, resources, and planning tools, in an effort to increase transfer enrollment from California Community Colleges, particularly schools with fewer transfer applicants and enrollees. The new website was being publicized through a social media campaign that targets high school and community college students and staff with messages about affordability, access, and belonging.

3. **ANNUAL REPORT ON PRIVATE SUPPORT**

[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 Turner stated that the Annual Report on University Private Support reflected the generosity of alumni, parents, foundations, and friends; the deep ties between UC and the community; and a strong belief in UC. Gifts such as scholarships, endowed chairs, and departmental support enhanced access, advanced research, attracted top faculty, and improved the student experience. These gifts also empowered UC to pursue innovation, address societal challenges, and maintain its leadership in various disciplines.

Heather Kopeck, Executive Director of Institutional Advancement, reported that, in fiscal year 2023–24, the University received a record-breaking \$3.45 billion in private support. UC used the reporting standard from the Council for Advancement in Support of Education (CASE) to arrive at this figure, which included gifts paid in full, payments on pledges, current-use gifts, and gifts used to establish or augment endowments. UC campuses and other public and private entities reported their totals to CASE annually, and data would be

available in February. Ms. Kopeck presented a chart showing ten years of private support, noting an upward trend line with fluctuations due to economic factors or large gifts, and presented circle graphs indicating gift sources. As was the case for other institutions, foundations gave UC more than any other type of donor. For instance, the Crankstart Foundation gave \$14 million to support the UCSF Career Pathways initiative. The next largest source of support came from individual donors, such as Charlie Dunlop, who gave \$50 million to the newly named Charlie Dunlop School of Biological Sciences at UC Irvine, and Ed and Jeanne Kashian, who gave \$5 million to name the Ed and Jeanne Kashian Atrium in the UC Merced Medical Education Building. As individuals, alumni gave a total of about \$224 million, and foundations established by alumni gave close to \$291 million. Alumni gifts included \$22 million to UC Santa Barbara from John and Jody Arnhold for the arts, humanities, and athletics, as well as \$10 million from Helen and Morgan Chu to the UCLA Institute of American Cultures and its ethnic studies centers. Ms. Kopeck presented a circle graph of gift purposes. Unrestricted giving comprised roughly one percent of total dollars, and the vast majority of gifts was directed toward research and departmental support. An example of departmental support was a \$21 million gift from Jeff and Doreen Lee for the Aiiso Yufeng Li Family Department of Chemical and Nano Engineering at UC San Diego. Maria Manetti Shrem pledged more than \$20 million to UC Davis to create endowments for art programs and to establish fellowship funds for a Master of Fine Arts. UC also received over \$288 million for student support, including a \$13 million distribution from a bequest to establish the Richard Sabatte Family Scholarship focusing on first-generation students. UC Riverside received \$3 million to provide 15 full scholarships to medical students committed to practicing in the Inland Empire.

The report noted an additional \$651 million for endowment, bequests, and planned gifts, which helped donors create a charitable legacy and sometimes achieve personal financial goals, and gifts by academic discipline. Most campuses held giving days or similar events, which build a culture of philanthropy and the donor pipeline, raise awareness about specific initiatives, and celebrate donor generosity. During UC Berkeley's Big Give, donors and volunteers become ambassadors, giving is promoted on social media, and contests are held for donor matching, creating a sense of urgency and engagement. This year's Big Give raised \$12.7 million from more than 16,000 donors. Three UC campuses were among the top 12 public and private fundraising institutions.

Unrestricted giving at UC was consistent with that of other institutions, between one and four percent. Nationwide, donor counts were declining across all charitable organizations; in 2023, giving by individuals dropped by 2.4 percent. Inflation and the COVID-19 pandemic have significantly affected the ability to give, but according to reports, one could be approaching a new normal. Ms. Kopeck remarked that, despite slight decreases in donor counts, UC was still doing very well. Campuses, aware of nationwide trends, were modifying engagement with younger alumni, tailoring programs to a variety of donors, and sharing best practices. Institutional Advancement recently convened all campus vice chancellors of advancement to discuss the challenges that campuses faced. Ms. Kopeck concluded by underscoring that donors want their gift to be a catalyst for change and growth, and that UC is tasked with demonstrating that, regardless of the amount given or ability to give, there is no better philanthropic investment than in the University.

Regent-designate Wang asked about trends in donations from younger alumni, how UC is adjusting to them to create donor pipelines, and how the Board could help. Ms. Kopeck replied that UC alumni were more diverse and more numerous than ever but emphasized that she does not view young alumni only as a source of financial support. UC sought to expand alumni giving to include dollars, volunteer efforts, and advocacy. With regard to building a donor pipeline, UC was creating a sense of connection with alumni by building relationships with students that continue after graduation. Recent graduates, who might not yet have the financial resources to give, ought to know that they could still support UC and that UC would appreciate it. When alumni do have the capacity to give, UC should have opportunities ready for them.

Regent Beharry asked if there were strategies for encouraging alumni to support campuses beyond their own or systemwide initiatives. Ms. Kopeck replied that campus data systems do not indicate whether alumni are affiliated with multiple campuses. However, campuses were collaborating to ensure alumni receive information about community events from UC campuses in their region. Systemwide, the “Alumni Career Network” was a webinar series for alumni seeking career opportunities. One hoped this engagement would foster the idea of giving back to the University and encourage alumni to support other campuses. Although Mr. Dunlop was not an alumnus of UC Irvine, he decided to give to UCI because his business was located in Orange County and many of his staff were graduates of that campus. The University did not have an ideal way to track the connections it makes with a high level of specificity.

Regent Beharry asked whether there was a systemwide program connecting students with alumni and donors. Ms. Kopeck responded that there was no such systemwide program yet, but the University could connect students with the UC Chicana Latinx Alumni Association and the UC Black Alumni Association, both systemwide groups. Regent Beharry noted that, through the Golden Lynx Ambassadors program at UC Merced, students could meet donors, give campus tours, and invite donors to student organizations.

Staff Advisor Emiru asked if there was any effort to encourage donors to give unrestricted gifts in light of the current financial situation. Ms. Kopeck stated that UC worked with donors to determine and meet their philanthropic goals. Advancement staff worked with donors to make their gifts to a particular school, college, or department unrestricted so that the dean or department chair has more flexible use of these funds, which would not be reported as unrestricted under CASE standards.

Regent Salazar asked Chancellors May and Muñoz to share experiences and lessons learned from their campuses’ campaigns. Chancellor Muñoz stated that UC Merced’s Boldly Forward campaign has raised about half of its \$200 million goal, double its original goal. Many UCM alumni were starting their careers, so the campus had to attract donors like the Kashian family and Mackenzie Scott. Chancellor Muñoz projected that Boldly Forward would exceed its goal ahead of time, and he hoped the next campaign’s goal would be closer to \$500 million. By raising private funds to support students, faculty, and research, campuses would not have to rely as much on public funding. Chancellor May stated that Expect Greater, UC Davis’ second campaign, concluded in June and raised

\$2.25 billion, exceeding its \$2 billion goal. One lesson was to set aggressive campaign goals; like its fellow campuses, UC Davis had a strong narrative and many achievements. The second lesson was that donors give to people they trust and respect; Chancellor May spent much time trying to earn such trust and respect from potential donors. UC Davis' next campaign was slated to launch later that day.

Committee Chair Sarris, noting that the political situation on some East Coast campuses was affecting their private donations, asked if something similar was anticipated at UC. Ms. Kopeck responded that some donors have expressed concern over campus climate issues. The University has built some of its relationships with larger donors over long periods of time. While some donors have paused giving, they still believed in UC, its people, and its programs. This was a testament to the work of the chancellors, deans, department heads, and faculty. Donors came from all walks of life and all viewpoints, and it was incumbent upon the University to continue dialogue and ensure that donors see the impact of their gift. Ms. Kopeck stated that, if the University stays true to its values, its donors will remain committed to the institution.

4. **PARTNERSHIP IN ADVOCACY: A COLLABORATION BETWEEN UC STUDENT ASSOCIATION, UC GRADUATE AND PROFESSIONAL COUNCIL, AND UC STATE AND FEDERAL GOVERNMENT RELATIONS**

[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.]

Committee Chair Sarris invited Student Observer Brenda Sanchez to make remarks.

Ms. Sanchez shared that she was a first-generation UC Irvine student from a low-income, immigrant family and was pursuing majors in political science as well as social policy and public service. She stressed that every individual deserves access to high-quality education, resources, and opportunities regardless of background or circumstances and highlighted several student priorities. The UC Student Association's UCweVOTE campaign called for more polling places and ballot drop boxes on all campuses. Ms. Sanchez recalled that students at UC Irvine waited up to four hours to vote during the 2024 U.S. general election, and other students were unable to wait in line to vote due to classes, work, and other responsibilities. She hoped that County liaisons could work with students to make voting a more accessible, efficient, and empowering experience. Implementing the Cal Grant Equity Framework remained a top priority for students as it helped reduce financial pressure that could affect academic performance. The State recently passed Assembly Bill (AB) 2033, which requests that at least one store on each UC campus accept the use of electronic benefits transfer (EBT) cards and expands the definition of "basic needs" in the California Education Code to include clothing, feminine hygiene products, diapers, technology, childcare, and mental health services. Ms. Sanchez expressed hope that the passage of AB 2033 would inspire the University to incorporate academic equity into systemwide policy. This would entail assessing whether a student's basic needs are being met, addressing challenges the student faced, and granting the student an additional term to demonstrate academic proficiency prior to disqualification. Ms. Sanchez concluded by

thanking the Committee and underscoring Committee Chair Sarris' experience as a professor and tribal leader and Committee Vice Chair Salazar's experience as a former UC Student Association (UCSA) staff member.

Regent-designate Brooks expressed her commitment to working alongside Ms. Sanchez and UCSA to make academic equity part of systemwide policy. Committee Chair Sarris echoed this commitment.

Interim Senior Vice President Turner introduced the item. Building partnerships with student leaders is important for augmenting advocacy, a top priority for Ms. Turner.

Associate Vice President Kathleen Fullerton recalled Committee Chair Sarris' earlier comments about uncertainty and noted that some statewide election results had not yet been called. About 30 percent of legislators would be new to the State Legislature this year, and the University must meet with them, convey the University's priorities and its role in the state, and listen to their priorities. There would also be opportunities to partner with these new members, many of whom were UC alumni. While UC did not experience State budget cuts that were as intense as some other State agencies did, the University planned to continue to work with the Legislature to underscore the significance of the proposed cuts in next year's budget. In the last two-year legislative cycle, the Office of State Governmental Relations (SGR) tracked nearly 6,000 bills, about 600 of which would make a significant impact on UC, and supported about 30 bills, half of which were signed by Governor Newsom. Among several UC-sponsored bills that passed included AB 3059 for donor breast milk; SGR partnered with students in support of the bill. Ms. Fullerton thanked the Regents for their advocacy efforts and was eager to expand Regental engagement in Sacramento.

Associate Vice President Chris Harrington noted the effect of the federal election on the University, which received more than \$16 billion in federal funding each year. The new Trump administration was expected to prioritize issues such as deregulation and tax cuts, as well as significant changes to immigration and border security policy, a major shift from U.S. President Biden's policies. While there was much uncertainty and anxiety within the UC community, Mr. Harrington stated that the University has faced similar situations before. UC would be steadfast and continue to advocate important issues, such as doubling the Pell Grant and strengthening other federal financial aid programs; protecting students, staff, and faculty, including those with Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals or undocumented status; and robust research funding and investment in UC healthcare priorities. Results for about ten California congressional races had not yet been called. During the remainder of the U.S. Congress' legislative session after the election, also known as a "lame duck" session, Congress was expected to address the National Defense Authorization Act, disaster relief, reauthorizing the Farm Bill, healthcare-related legislative actions, and fiscal year 2025 appropriations. The federal government was operating under a continuing resolution through December 20, and UC has continued to advocate for the highest funding levels for its priorities. The prior day, the Office of Federal Governmental Relations (FGR) sent letters from President Drake and Executive Vice President Rubin to the California congressional delegation underscoring UC priorities.

Esther Mejia, UC Santa Barbara student and UCSA Government Relations Committee Chair, presented a list of UCSA campaign priorities for 2024–25 chosen by students during the annual UCSA Student Organizing Summit: expanding basic needs programs to include undocumented students, who were not eligible for CalFresh; implementing the Cal Grant Equity Framework to improve education access for students from low-income families; and strengthening the relationship between the chancellors and campus Native and Indigenous Councils. Ms. Mejia also emphasized how difficult it is for student groups to communicate with the campus administration. She noted that the UCweVOTE and the Racial Justice Now! campaigns have concluded following the election and shared UCSA’s 2024–25 State budget priorities. UCSA sought \$3 million in ongoing funding to hire disability services staff in order to address long wait times for services and \$1 million to finance infrastructure for intersegmental course articulation and pathways development given recent transfer reform. Although AB 2586 and AB 1160 did not pass, UCSA would continue advocacy of undocumented students’ equal access to higher education and campus employment opportunities and would work to find solutions so that institutional debt does not bar students from obtaining a diploma or enrolling in courses.

Ernesto Arciniega, UC Graduate and Professional Council (UCGPC) Director of Legislative Affairs and Outreach, presented UCGPC campaign priorities. Permanent advocacy priorities focused on addressing basic needs and enhancing civic engagement. In 2023–24, UCGPC focused its advocacy on affordable housing, improving mental health services, and enhancing mentorship standards. In 2024–25, UCGPC aimed to continue working toward better mentorship standards and to advocate for ethical investment practices and increased support for students with dependents. UCGPC sought more funding from agencies like the National Institutes of Health (NIH), the National Science Foundation (NSF), and the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) in alignment with systemwide priorities. Given the cuts to the National Science Foundation (NSF) being proposed by the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Appropriations, Mr. Arciniega stressed the importance of calling for these funding increases, which were essential to graduate research and scientific progress.

The coming year was critical for ensuring that the graduate student voice remains in the appropriations process and that federal funding remains strong and adjusted for inflation. At the State level, UCGPC planned to continue collaborating with SGR, participating in Sacramento Advocacy Day, and building partnerships with members of State Senate and Assembly appropriation and budget committees, focusing advocacy on the importance of the State Compact and funding graduate education. UCGPC recently called for the passage of AB 2458, a bill pertaining to students with dependents signed by the Governor, and engaged legislative districts that house UC locations. At the federal level, UCGPC has pushed for the preservation of the Child Care Access Means Parents in School (CCAMPIS) Program, which the U.S. House Appropriations Committee proposed to eliminate, as well as legislation on mentorship standards and immigration reform. UCGPC met with Congress and federal agencies during Day on the Hill and visited the White House thanks to the help of FGR. Mr. Arciniega thanked State and federal legislators, Regent Kounalakis, SGR, and FGR for their support.

Ms. Fullerton stated that SGR met monthly with leaders from UCSA and UCGPC to seek and support shared priorities. Through the UC Advocacy Network (UCAN), SGR partnered with both groups on campaigns for the general obligation bond and AB 3059.

Mr. Harrington stated that FGR met biweekly with UCSA and UCGPC leadership and has begun discussion about plans for the next Congress and new presidential administration. In April, FGR supported UCSA's and UCGPC's first joint advocacy trip to Washington, D.C., by scheduling meetings and assisting with advocacy, communications materials, and logistics. FGR filmed a video about the trip featuring then UCSA President Celene Aridin and UCGPC President Ryan Manriquez that was shared via social media. In September 2023, when the House of Representatives was considering a bill that proposed cuts to student aid and programs, FGR launched a UCAN campaign with UCSA that included joint outreach, phone banking, and social media posts. UC has also partnered with students on basic needs issues and "get out the vote" efforts.

Regent Hernandez recalled his recent visit to the UC Washington Center (UCDC) and congratulated the University for having such a place for students. He praised Ms. Mejia and Mr. Arciniega and encouraged them to continue their work. He underscored the importance of UC making a positive first impression on new legislators. Ms. Fullerton replied that SGR met with about one-third of the candidates for State Legislature before the election. She offered to discuss this further with Regent Hernandez.

Regent Beharry shared his dream of seeing a School of Public Policy location at UCDC. He asked how alumni expertise and connections could be leveraged to assist students with their campaign priorities or fill gaps in funding through philanthropy. Ms. Mejia replied that, during UCSA's inaugural Latine Lobby Day, students advocated alongside and networked with members of the Chicax Latinx Alumni Association. UCSA also formed a subcommittee to connect with alumni who had been UCSA members. Mr. Arciniega stated that, this year, UCGPC had the funds to invite undocumented students to join advocacy efforts in Washington, D.C. He also worked with the Undocumented Student Program at UCLA to secure more support for undocumented students. UCGPC could invite former Alumni Regents and other alumni leaders to its board meetings and training events to strengthen connections and encourage collaborations.

Regent Beharry stated that, following what transpired the prior week, emotions were raw, opinions were strong, and there was a sense of unease about the future. He engaged in many difficult conversations, particularly with undocumented students. The UC community had a choice to turn toward rather than away from each other. This was a call to action. The UC community could decide to make disagreement a force for change instead of a wedge between its members; there were big challenges forthcoming that the UC community should face as one. Regent Beharry remarked that God does not give one testimony without a test. He appealed to all to take action on behalf of the undocumented members of the UC community, who felt scrutinized and scared. In his view, the last year has been tough, but the next four years would be tougher.

Regent Salazar thanked Ms. Mejia and Mr. Arciniega for their leadership, for bringing student voices to the fore, and for partnering with the University. He encouraged them to continue pushing Regents to represent student perspectives.

Committee Chair Sarris thanked Ms. Mejia and Mr. Arciniega. He shared that the Federated Indians of Graton Rancheria UC Scholarship covered tuition and fees for California Native Americans, including those who were not members of federal recognized tribes and subject to Proposition 209. He suggested that funding be provided to undocumented students through outside organizations and offered to share his tribe's model with the University.

5. **HARVESTING EXCELLENCE THROUGH INNOVATION: UC'S CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE WINE INDUSTRY, PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE**

[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 Turner introduced the item. UC Davis has been at the forefront of wine education for 144 years. The campus' faculty, alumni, and research have played a vital role in transforming California's wine industry and the global wine market.

Ben Montpetit, Chair of the Department of Viticulture and Enology (V&E) at UC Davis, underscored the importance of the department's partnerships with the wine industry and other stakeholders in light of the lack of federal funding due to working with a product containing alcohol. In 1880, State Assembly Bill (AB) 374 was enacted and mandated that the Board of Regents teach the field of viticulture. At the time, California had a booming wine industry that was also suffering from an infestation of phylloxera. AB 1989, the "Sip and Spit" law, allowed students under the age of 21 to taste wine as part of their education, and State Senate Bill 918 allowed UC Davis to sell its wines, which was one way of generating funding for scholarships and student support.

Mr. Montpetit shared the department's mission, to create leaders for the future and knowledge for the industry through teaching, research, and extension. There has been a significant effort over the last 15 years to diversify the program, and, in the last ten years, over 50 percent of graduates were female and about one-third came from underrepresented groups. The department also partnered with Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) through the UC-HBCU Initiative and with Hispanic-Serving Institutions and has hosted the Educational Influencers Bootcamp. The department had a role in finding solutions to the issues that the industry faced, such as climate change, labor, and water. From 2006 to 2012, UC Davis' cork taint research helped save the California wine industry an estimated \$3.4 billion. Through UC Davis Extension and over 50 virtual programs developed during the COVID-19 pandemic, the department's outreach spanned the whole state. The department has contributed to the economic impact of the California wine industry, which employed over 400,000 Californians, generated over \$70 billion in annual economic activity, and paid close to \$8 billion in taxes.

The department raised just over \$33 million during UC Davis' Expect Greater campaign and was coming close to providing stable funding for all faculty through endowments, now with nine endowed chairs for 12 faculty and over \$50 million in endowed funds. The department also received an unrestricted endowment of \$15 million, which generated funding to respond to challenges at any time. In another example of partnership, Robert and Margrit Mondavi donated \$25 million to initiate the establishment of the Robert Mondavi Institute for Wine and Food Science, and classes were held both in the building and the adjacent vineyard. The UC Davis Teaching and Research Winery was the first winery in the world to receive Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Platinum certification and the fourth building in the UC system with such a certification. Mr. Montpetit shared a video about the campus vineyard and student winemaking, noting that Regents Policy 5402, Policy Generally Prohibiting Contracting for Services, has affected the department's ability to engage in research and farming. The department generated the continued investment needed to maintain such an advanced winery through its partnerships given the lack of government funding. The Oakville Experimental Station was comprised of 20 acres given by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) in the late 1940s and 20 acres donated by vintners of the Napa Valley. To Kalon Vineyard, which was part of the Oakville Experimental Station, was recently ranked as one of the world's greatest vineyards by *Wine Spectator* magazine. Members of the department's Executive Leadership Board included Carolyn Wentz, chair of Wentz Family Estates; Miguel Luna, partner of Silverado Farming Company; and Dwyane Wade, former professional basketball player and co-founder of Wade Cellars. Students and student organizations such as Davis Enology and Viticulture Organization (DEVO) and Women in Wine were heavily involved in stakeholder partnerships; alumni and donors served as mentors to many students, provided scholarships, and helped fund international internships. The department's challenges included rising cost of education, maintaining and securing new investment in facilities, the impact of UC policy on the department's ability to operate, reliance on industry investments, and the lack of State and federal funding for enology research.

Sydney Rogers, a master's student from rural Kentucky, shared that she had originally planned to study medicine but spent a gap year in Tuscany, Italy studying enology, which led Ms. Rogers to discover careers related to wine. Currently, she was a researcher in the Montpetit Lab and the president of DEVO, a student-run nonprofit organization connecting students with industry through trips abroad to wine regions, tasting events, and scholarships funded by an annual fundraising dinner with wine pairings and auctions.

Kaitlin Libbey, a Ph.D. student from San Francisco, California, had a background in soil science and worked in vineyard management and viticulture before pursuing research in climate extremes at UC Davis. Ms. Libbey was also the president of Women in Wine, a student-run club that sought to support and empower women entering or working in the industry. Students have received job offers through the club's mentorship program, and the club worked with the Robert Mondavi Institute to host the Women in Wine Symposium.

Naomi Morales, an undergraduate student from Union City, California, shared that she was a first-generation, nontraditional transfer student. Ms. Morales had traveled the world and worked in corporate insurance before earning a Professional Certificate in the Business of

Wine from San Diego State University, where she learned about UC Davis V&E. She has helped organize events for DEVO and received an internship placement at a research winery through her participation in Women in Wine.

Committee Chair Sarris recalled that, when he grew up in Sonoma County, dairy farms and fields that once grew fruit and other crops have been replaced by vineyards, creating a water-dependent monoculture. He asked if there were ways to grow grapes that are not as water-dependent and do not create a monoculture, especially in a drier, warmer climate. Mr. Montpetit responded in the affirmative. The department addressed water use and sustainability through its mission of teaching, research, and extension. Its last four faculty hires were focused on climate change and a future with less water. The department was researching new root stocks that require less water and new modes of irrigation that use artificial intelligence to improve efficiency, teaching students about these problems and equipping students with tools to address them, and informing the industry about these new methods through extension and outreach. There was a move away from monoculture toward regenerative farming, which took a more holistic view toward farming. Committee Chair Sarris noted local pushback against vineyards for the reasons he cited.

Regent Hernandez asked why grapes were picked by hand instead of using machinery in the video about the campus vineyard. Mr. Montpetit replied that the vineyard was planted a certain way for historical reasons, and the department opted for handpicking to train students and to obtain small amounts of fruit as needed. He stated that the future of sustainability is mechanization, which could address labor issues as well. Mason Earles was a faculty member recruited from Apple to focus on precision viticulture.

Regent Hernandez asked how the department's wine was marketed, including the creation of the label and development of a narrative for the wine. Mr. Montpetit replied that V&E was collaborating with the Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics to develop a minor in wine business. V&E was still a research-intensive department at its heart but was also partnering with other departments to offer further knowledge. Students could learn about the Certificate of Label Approval in a course on label development and about distribution in a course about wine regulation.

Regent-designate Komoto shared that he learned about wine through his cousin, who graduated from the UCD enology program in the 1970s. He asked if UC Davis was networking with independent laboratories and finding ways to publish their findings. Mr. Montpetit replied that independent commercial laboratories were focused on meeting industry needs, often using technology developed by the University or its alumni. During the wildfires in 2020, UC, the California Department of Food and Agriculture, and other institutions helped commercial laboratories test grape samples. The department had ongoing research collaborations with these laboratories.

Regent-designate Komoto remarked that his cousin regarded wine as art that moves in the glass and in time. Mr. Montpetit stated his view that winemaking was a combination of science and artful, calculated risk and likened it to a quote attributed to Pablo Picasso

(1881–1973) about learning the rules in order to break them. The department taught students the science of winemaking so that they could take those risks.

Regent Robinson suggested that Mr. Montpetit work with External Relations and Communications to establish relationships with the new State legislators and to enhance knowledge of the department at the State Capitol. He asked how V&E could help the wine industry face current challenges. Mr. Montpetit stated that the department could provide research and innovation to address issues related to overplanting or the creation of low- to no-alcohol wines given concerns about alcohol and health.

The meeting adjourned at 4:35 p.m.

Attest:

Secretary and Chief of Staff