

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA ACADEMIC SENATE

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November 13, 2006

ROBERT DYNES
PRESIDENT

RORY HUME
PROVOST AND EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT-
ACADEMIC AND HEALTH AFFAIRS

Re: Assignment of the Budget Function at the Office of the President

Dear Bob and Rory,

At its October 25, 2006 meeting, the Academic Council discussed the current reorganization of the Office of the President. Prompted by concerns raised by the University Committee on Planning and Budget (UCPB), we considered in particular the planned reassignment of the budgetary functions that are now executed through the Budget Office. According to the President's September 21, 2006, update on the reorganization, "all budget matters . . . including capital, state, operational and all other budgeting" will be placed under the direction of the Executive Vice President-Chief Financial Officer, one of the three newly-created top management positions now in recruitment.

The Academic Council believes, however, that the primary budget function for the University should flow from the academic planning process, which establishes educational needs and priorities. Therefore, we urge that the University's senior budget officer -- the person principally responsible for identifying and articulating budget priorities, advising the Chancellors in their budget process, developing and negotiating the budget, and advocating for the University's priorities -- be located within the Office of Academic Affairs.

Additionally, we would like to ensure that UCPB and the future senior budget officer continue to have direct dialogue with each other, and ask that that person be included on the roster of UCPB's regular consultants.

The Academic Council is committed to the idea that the University's senior management should project and be rooted in the University's academic nature and mission. I hope that you find merit in the above recommendation, and respectfully request that it be transmitted forthwith to the Regents for their consideration.

Sincerely,

John B. Oakley, Chair
Academic Council

Copy: Academic Council
María Bertero-Barceló, Senate Director