

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, ACADEMIC SENATE

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Chair of the Assembly and the Academic Council
Faculty Representative to the Board of Regents
University of California
1111 Franklin Street, 12th Floor
Oakland, California 94607-5200

November 2, 2009

**PRESIDENT YUDOF
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA**

Re: Implementation of Furlough Policy

Dear Mark:

I am writing to convey formally the sense of the Academic Council that the decision to preclude campuses from implementing furloughs on instructional days undermined the distinctive role of the University in giving priority to research as one of the three principal responsibilities of the faculty and missions of the University. I am enclosing a letter from UCORP, endorsed by Council, requesting that research must be made more visible as a priority at UC.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you wish to discuss this further.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Henry C. Powell", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Henry C. Powell, Chair
Academic Council

Copy: Interim Provost Pitts
Academic Council
Martha Winnacker, Academic Senate Executive Director



UNIVERSITY COMMITTEE ON RESEARCH POLICY (UCORP)

James Carey, Chair 2008-09

jrcarey@ucdavis.edu

Greg Miller, Chair 2009-10

grgmiller@ucdavis.edu

Assembly of the Academic Senate

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August 31, 2009

MARY CROUGHAN, CHAIR 2008-09

HENRY POWELL, CHAIR 2009-10

ACADEMIC COUNCIL

RE: Furlough Impacts on Research

Dear Mary and Harry,

We write to express the University Committee on Research Policy's (UCORP) concerns over the apparent de-emphasis of research at UC implied in Provost Pitts recent letter (Aug 21, 2009). Our argument centers on the fact that preservation of instructional days were given undue consideration in implementing the furloughs, with the onus of the cuts transferred needlessly to research. The main purpose of this letter is to request that the research goals of the University be more highly supported. Even in these troubling times, we strongly encourage the administration to reconsider its position of excluding educational days from the furlough plan.

We recognize that difficult choices must be made in these difficult times, but both the explicit and implicit meaning of the message from the Office of the President belies the University's three-fold mission: teaching, research, and service. The research objective should not be overshadowed if we are to achieve the type of public support that the mission statement requires.

Research must be a visible priority at UC. The University is the constitutionally-charged research arm of the State, and the benefits of research at UC are a boon to the entire State. The value of the businesses and products developed by UC researchers are significant, whereas the value of losing research days while preserving undergraduate instruction is unclear. Indeed, we take issue with Provost Pitts' wording: "Asking the faculty to carry a full teaching load during furloughs is a large request, but in my mind is justified by *the University's paramount teaching mission*" (emphasis added). We observe that at the California State University, whose primary mission is teaching undergraduates, instructional days have been impacted (see http://www.sfsu.edu/~hrwww/econ_times/econ_times.html); the claim that UC cannot do the same is unsubstantiated; in fact, no compelling reason to disallow the taking of at least some furlough days on instruction days has been given.

Again, UCORP appreciates that competition for scarce resources has increased. We seek only to ensure that research is afforded its rightful place in these and subsequent discussions, including those of the UC Commission on the Future.

Sincerely,

James Carey, Chair 2008-09
UCORP

Greg Miller, Chair 2009-10
UCORP

cc: UCORP
Martha Winnacker, Executive Director, Systemwide Academic Senate