

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, ACADEMIC SENATE

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Assembly of the Academic Senate, Academic Council
University of California
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July 29, 2003

Dear Colleague:

Attached please find my [letter to President Atkinson](#) detailing the Academic Council's unanimous opposition to the [ballot measure titled, Classification by Race, Ethnicity, Color or National Origin](#) (popularly dubbed "Racial Privacy Initiative"). The Council reached its conclusion on the basis of a year's study of the matter and discussions within most of the systemwide and divisional committees of the Senate over this extended period. This matter was discussed and voted on at the May 2003 Regents' meeting. The Regental vote was 15 to 3 (with 1 abstention) to oppose CRECNO. Because of the gubernatorial recall election slated for October 7, 2003, CRECNO has moved up from March 2004 and will appear on the same statewide ballot as the recall. We urge all faculty to read the initiative (which is also attached hereto) and if you believe as does Academic Council and the U.C. Regents that this measure is injurious to the University we further urge you to inform others of your concerns.

You will note that my letter on CRECNO makes very clear that the Academic Senate did not discuss, nor base its opposition on, the potentially broad political and social consequences of CRECNO. Our review was focused entirely on UC's institutional concerns. It is expected that faculty members will have varying views on this proposed constitutional amendment's consequences, and thus it is up to each of us to respond as we see fit. If you speak to others about UC's opposition, especially referencing the faculty's concerns, please use the attached letter to President Atkinson as a guide to the issues we highlighted.

If you are speaking or acting as an individual member of the California political community you are, of course, free to cite your support of the measure or whatever concerns you may have personally. The purpose of this letter is not to "coerce your judgment" but rather to clarify the Academic Senate's position. In the interest of being helpful here are the web sites of the two organizations most active on the matter.

Supporting CRECNO
Opposing CRECNO

<http://www.racialprivacy.org>
<http://www.informedcalifornia.org>

If I can be of any assistance in representing the Academic Senate's views of CRECNO on your campus or in other venues, please do not hesitate to call on me. Time has become very short for engagement in public education on this matter.

Sincerely,
Gayle Binion, Chair
Academic Council

Encl: 2