

# UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, ACADEMIC SENATE

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SANTA BARBARA • SANTA CRUZ

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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*

February 4, 2011

**VICE PRESIDENT DAN DOOLEY  
AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES  
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA**

**Re: Redirection of Endowment Funds**

Dear Dan:

At its meeting on January 26, the Academic Council unanimously voted to endorse the following resolution.

BE IT RESOLVED: The Academic Council requests that ANR suspend the redirection of funds from endowments, including those from the Kearney Foundation of Soil Science and the Elvenia Slosson Ornamental Horticulture Endowment, along with any other such endowments, pending full consultation with the committees of the Academic Senate, concerning the effects of the reallocation of endowment funds on research and graduate education and concerning the importance of the proposed new research initiatives.

Therefore, on behalf of the Academic Council, I respectfully request that you suspend plans to redirect these funds. I am happy to discuss this with you further and I am glad that you have found time on your calendar to meet with the Committee on Research, which is one of the three standing committees that proposed this resolution to the Academic Council.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Daniel L. Simmons".

Daniel L. Simmons, Chair  
Academic Council

Copy: Mark Yudof, President  
Lawrence Pitts, EVP and Provost  
Academic Council  
Martha Winnacker, Academic Senate Executive Director

Encl (1)



**UNIVERSITY COMMITTEE ON PLANNING AND BUDGET (UCPB)**

**James A. Chalfant, Chair**

[jim@primal.ucdavis.edu](mailto:jim@primal.ucdavis.edu)

**COORDINATING COMMITTEE ON GRADUATE AFFAIRS (CCGA)**

**James Carmody, Chair**

[jcarmody@ucsd.edu](mailto:jcarmody@ucsd.edu)

**UNIVERSITY COMMITTEE ON RESEARCH POLICY (UCORP)**

**Phokion Kolaitis, Chair**

[kolaitis@ucsc.edu](mailto:kolaitis@ucsc.edu)

Assembly of the Academic Senate

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January 14, 2011

DAN SIMMONS, CHAIR  
ACADEMIC COUNCIL

Re: Redirection of Endowment Funds (Kearney Foundation of Soil Science; Slosson Ornamental Horticulture Endowment)

Dear Dan,

The University Committee on Planning and Budget (UCPB) has received several communications from faculty regarding actions taken by the Division of Agriculture and Natural Resources (ANR) to redirect funds from endowments, most recently the Kearney Foundation of Soil Science and the Elvenia J. Slosson Ornamental Horticulture Endowment. These faculty are concerned about the impact of this action on research and graduate students supported by endowment funding and about the lack of consultation. The funds are apparently being redirected to support new and seemingly unrelated ANR research priorities and initiatives around the state. Our three committees have discussed the concerns raised by these faculty, and because we would like to work together and ensure that each committee is consulted, we are sending this letter jointly.

Together, CCGA, UCPB, and UCORP share concerns cited by the endowment directors and other faculty about the way ANR arrived at these decisions, which appear to have been made without proper academic planning and broad consultation with faculty. While the administration of both endowments was centered on the Davis campus, this issue extends beyond one campus. Both endowments have operated as statewide programs distributing funds to UC campuses and (in the case of Slosson) county personnel throughout California. Details as to who received research funding between 1983 and 2010 can be found on the Slosson Endowment website at <http://slosson.ucdavis.edu>. The endowment's research advisory committee includes faculty from Davis and Riverside, along with stakeholders and personnel from ANR locations throughout California. Details for the current Kearney Foundation project (2006-11) are at <http://kearney.ucdavis.edu>. The advisory committee for the Kearney Foundation includes faculty members from Berkeley, Davis, Irvine, Merced, Riverside, and Santa Barbara. In 2009, funds

were allocated to at least one investigator from each of these six campuses, plus Santa Cruz.

Given that such redirections affect the University's academic mission—graduate education and faculty research in academic departments on campuses throughout the system—all three committees ask that there be consultation with the Academic Senate, and specifically our committees, before any decisions are finalized. This is consistent with shared governance. In addition to consulting with us directly, we will want to hear the results of a more deliberative process of planning and consultation with affected faculty, both about the use of these endowment funds and the new initiatives. But it is important to add that we are not merely conveying complaints from other faculty. Our committees are charged with providing advice to the Academic Council, the Academic Assembly, and through them, the administration, as to whether these decisions are best for the University. We may well conclude that at least some of the funds should be redirected; however, we cannot provide that advice without full consultation, including a review of how the endowment funds have been used to date. There does not appear to have been an academic review of the endowments, and as a result, there is no indication that they were underperforming.

Thus, on behalf of our three committees, we ask that the Academic Council endorse our request that ANR suspend the redirection of funds from these two endowments and any others similarly affected, pending a complete review. We request information concerning the distribution of these funds by campus, including how many students are supported, and how the reallocation of these funds will affect graduate education. We would also like to know the effects on research by participating faculty, and how the funds will be used if they are reallocated. For instance, will more of the funding be allocated to researchers at locations other than our main campuses? If so, as seems likely to follow, will the funding be less directed toward graduate student support?

We hope that you will also convey our assurance, in writing to President Yudof and to ANR Vice President Dooley, that our committees recognize the broad support for ANR throughout the state and the high quality of the research and outreach that emanates from ANR—not only from the three “ANR campuses” but from projects funded at other campuses and from units located elsewhere in California. We have no particular prejudice in this matter, but wish to be well-enough informed to offer a cogent opinion. Especially in these very difficult budget times, our committees cannot fulfill their shared governance obligations to advise on matters pertaining to graduate education, our research mission, the budget, and academic and capital planning, without such consultation. We look forward to this as the beginning of a continued dialogue.

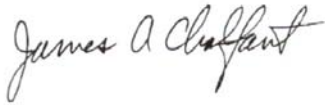
Consistent with your request, we have phrased our appeal as a resolution recommended for Council's adoption:

*Whereas various endowments held by the Division of Agriculture and Natural Resources (ANR) support research and graduate education on the general campuses, and whereas the Academic Senate has a shared-governance obligation to advise on all matters concerning budget, academic planning, and research policy, and has delegated authority over graduate education, BE IT RESOLVED THAT*

*The Academic Council requests that ANR suspend the redirection of funds from endowments, including those from the Kearney Foundation of Soil Science and the Elvenia Slosson Ornamental Horticulture Endowment, along with any other such endowments, pending full consultation with the committees of the Academic*

*Senate, concerning the effects of the reallocation of endowment funds on research and graduate education and concerning the importance of the proposed new research initiatives.*

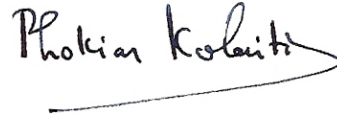
Sincerely,



James A. Chalfant  
UCPB Chair



James Carmody  
CCGA Chair



Phokion Kolaitis  
UCORP Chair

cc: CCGA  
UCORP  
UCPB  
Martha Winnacker, Senate Executive Director