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May 29, 2012

MARK G. YUDOF, PRESIDENT
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

Re: Rebenching recommendations

Dear Mark:

The Academic Council discussed the status of rebenching at our May 23, 2012 meeting, assessing what information has come to the Senate and what hasn't. We still lack adequate information about implementation, and the Rebenching Task Force left unresolved important issues that require further Senate input.

The draft report, based on the work of the Rebenching Task Force that concluded on March 7, 2012, is only now being reviewed by the whole Task Force, so it is clear that a systemwide review of the report and recommendations will not take place this year. While we regret this slow pace, we support the aim, stated repeatedly by Rebenching co-chairs Brostrom and Pitts, to begin the rebenching process this July, that is to allocate augmentations or cuts for 2012-13 on an enrollment basis, the key principle of rebenching. Given that the Council supports the immediate July 1 start to the proposed six-year implementation of rebenching, we want to go on record with the following recommendations:

1. A full systemwide review of the rebenching report, encompassing both the first year and the plan as a whole, must be undertaken as early as possible in the academic year 2012-13. This requires a clear timeline for the completion and circulation of the rebenching report/recommendations, and should ideally be completed before the outcome of the November election and the consideration of any "trigger cuts" to the University.
2. The report includes a list of outstanding issues that have not yet been addressed:
 - **Off-the-top items:** the total deducted from available state funds has risen from an initial estimate of \$120M to approximately \$167M, an increase which has not been justified because the key off-the-top funds for Health Sciences and the Agricultural Experiment Station (AES) have not been subject to any scrutiny by the Task Force or a broader community. The two work groups of the Rebenching Task Force, one for Health Sciences, the other for AES, that were charged with making recommendations for this process, indicated their views about the appropriate way to fund these units,

but made no recommendations concerning the amounts (other than to cease providing Clinical Teaching Support funds). The Task Force failed to make any significant progress examining these off-the-top items in the budget.

- **Enrollment management:** the process of defining enrollment targets has been left prematurely for implementation while there are still major problems to be resolved--- problems that transcend mere implementation issues. In particular, there needs to be thorough consideration of the process for defining and levying the penalty for displacing resident undergraduate students. We also are strongly in favor of transparency in assessing the progress in enrollment management and rebenching in general.
- **Weighting of students:** monitoring of the effects of the incentives and disincentives built into the weightings, on which the committee decided without the benefit of data, must be built into the review process envisioned for rebenching.

These are critical, policy issues, key elements that remain unresolved, each with the potential to jeopardize the progress of rebenching, and as such too important to be relegated to implementation by the UCOP Budget Office. A procedure must be in place for future Administration-Senate participation in setting both the policies and implementation for these issues.

We conclude by stressing how urgent it is to make public the rebenching plan to our students, faculty and staff. The Council has also repeatedly called for communication about the progress of rebenching to the general public. The moment has arrived when that communication is critical for UC. As we discussed at the May 23 meeting with you, Provost Pitts and Executive Vice-President Brostrom, faced by the deep concerns expressed about the proposed state constitutional amendment setting a 10% nonresident cap at each campus, now is the ideal moment for UCOP to make a public announcement of Rebenching. We urge you to do so as soon as possible, both within the University community as a prelude to full systemwide review, and more broadly to California voters. It is time to go public with all the work that has been done to ensure greater transparency and equity in the UC budget. We continue to believe that a key reason to have gone to all this effort is that we are far more likely to receive additional state funding, especially as the economy improves, if it can be explained in a transparent manner how we allocate state funds, and how small the per-student state allocation has become.

Sincerely,



Robert M. Anderson, Chair
Academic Council

Cc: Provost and EVP Pitts
EVP Brostrom
Academic Council
Executive Director Winnacker