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Assembly of the Academic Senate, Academic Council
University of California
1111 Franklin Street, 12th Floor
Oakland, California 94607-5200

November 2, 2005

ROBERT C. DYNES
PRESIDENT

Re: Maintaining the Public Status of the University of California

Dear Bob:

At its October 26, 2005 meeting, the Academic Council adopted the enclosed *Resolution on Maintaining the Public Status of the University of California*, which was drafted by the University Committee on Planning and Budget (UCPB). The Resolution reflects a concern on the part of the Senate that political and budgetary pressures will, over the long term, have the de facto effect of privatizing the University. The Council agrees with UCPB that maintaining UC's public status should be an integral consideration in long-range planning efforts. We also agree that it is time to make an open-eyed assessment of whether UC may be on a path toward privatization, and to clearly evaluate the implications and impacts of increased student fees and increased reliance on private funding in light of the University's fundamental mission.

Therefore, in accordance with the specific intent of the Resolution, I respectfully ask that it be forwarded to the University of California Long Range Guidance Team. It is hoped that the group will agree with the request, as stated in the Resolution," to evaluate the University of California's increased reliance on private funds it affects the instructional, research and public service missions of the University of California."

The Academic Council looks forward to hearing what steps may be taken by the Long Range Guidance Group in response to this request, and to receiving any related reports that may result from their efforts.

Sincerely,

Clifford Brunk, Chair
Academic Council

Copy: Academic Council
María Bertero-Barceló, Executive Director

Encl.: 1

CB/bgf

Academic Council Resolution on Maintaining the Public Status of the University of California¹

October 26, 2005

This measure requests that the Academic Council take action to commence the evaluation of the University of California's increased reliance on private funds, including the long term implications of the Higher Education Compact, as it affects the instructional, research and public service missions of the University of California.

WHEREAS, the University of California is a constitutionally established "public trust," intended to reflect and serve a diverse population and an advanced economy; and

WHEREAS the California Master Plan for Higher Education established "universal access" to higher education based on merit as a central feature of the University of California's role as a public university; and

WHEREAS in recent years there has been a continuing and accelerating trend to shift the costs of education onto individual students and their families; and

WHEREAS the Higher Education Compact between University of California and the Governor of California commits the University of California to "continue to seek additional private sources and maximize other fund sources available to the University to support basic programs"; and

WHEREAS the Compact commits the University of California to future fee increases that are at least as large as the rise in California per capita personal income; and

WHEREAS higher graduate student fees, as one example of increasing privatization, have already damaged the University of California's ability to attract high-quality students to its research and instructional programs; and

WHEREAS the University has worked to replace reductions in public funding with private funds, thus potentially altering its academic and public service missions with impacts that are not fully understood; now therefore be it

Resolved, That the Academic Council request that the University of California Long Range Guidance Team evaluate the effects on the instructional, research and public service missions of increased reliance on private funds, including the long term implications of the Compact, and report the results of this evaluation to the Council and appropriate Senate committees.

¹ Approved by the Academic Council on October 26, 2005 as submitted the University Committee on Planning and Budget (UCPB)