November 6, 2009

PRESIDENT MARK G. YUDOF
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

Re: Budget advocacy

Dear Mark:

The Academic Council asked me to forward to you the enclosed letter from UCFW conveying the dire consequences facing the University unless the state provides adequate funding: it will have to decrease enrollment and increase fees. Council believes that this message must be conveyed to the legislature explicitly and unambiguously.

Additionally, at its meeting on October 21, the Academic Council charged me and Vice Chair Simmons with organizing a faculty advocacy effort to explain the impact of inadequate funding on access and affordability for California students and on state higher education in general.

We look forward to working with you in advocating for the University of California.

Sincerely,

Henry C. Powell, Chair
Academic Council

Copy: Academic Council
   Martha Winnacker, Academic Senate Executive Director

Encl (1)
HARRY POWELL, CHAIR
ACADEMIC COUNCIL

RE: Budget Advocacy

Dear Harry,

During consultation with Vice President for Budget Patrick Lenz at the October 9, 2009, meeting of the University Committee on Faculty Welfare (UCFW), it became clear that the impact of inadequate funding must be emphasized in a clear and unequivocal manner to the legislature of the State of California: State support for the University of California is inadequate; unless adequate support is provided, the University must decrease enrollment and increase fees.

UC has provided unequaled and affordable access to the world’s premier public research university. Any diminution in restoration of the UC budget, or further erosion of the UC budget, will force the University into an untenable position. It will simply not be able to perform its mission at current or historic levels of access, affordability, and quality. Fewer students will be accommodated; fees will rise; quality will fall. The burden of the cascading cuts in student enrollment at UC, CSU, and the Community Colleges will most affect students from disadvantaged communities at a time when an increase in educational attainment is needed to boost the State economy. This chain of events is a regrettable and inevitable outcome of inadequate funding. Council has previously endorsed the longer document Principles to Guide Fiscal Decision-Making and Planning for the Future of the University of California that reiterates existing Senate policies and explains that access and affordability can only be maintained through adequate funding.

The UCFW urges the Senate to join with President Yudof and his officers in forcefully transmitting the inescapable consequences of inadequate funding on access and affordability directly to the legislature as well as the necessity for the University to decrease enrollment and increase student fees should such support not be forthcoming.

Sincerely,

Shane White, UCFW Chair

Copy: UCFW
Martha Winnacker, Executive Director, Academic Senate