June 23, 2009

PRESIDENT MARK YUDOF
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

Re: Resolution of the Academic Assembly Opposing ACA 24 and SCA 21

Dear Mark:

At its meeting on June 17, the Academic Assembly unanimously passed a resolution opposing ACA 24 and SCA 21, which would authorize an amendment to the state constitution to strip the Regents of their constitutional autonomy. The Academic Assembly resolved:

- That the existing provisions of Article IX, Section 9 of the Constitution of the State of California provide for sufficient oversight by the legislature and elected officials of the University; and

- That preservation of Regental autonomy is essential to ensuring that the University is “independent of all political or sectarian influence,” which is critical to maintenance of the University’s excellence in teaching, research, and service; and

- That the Assembly of the Academic Senate strongly opposes any legislative action to strip The Regents of their Constitutional autonomy.

We request that you communicate the faculty’s strong opposition to the Regents, to the public, and to state legislators. The full text of the resolution is enclosed. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions regarding the Assembly’s resolution.

Sincerely,

Mary Croughan
Chair, Academic Council
Copy: John Sandbrook, Interim Chief of Staff
    Academic Assembly
    Martha Winnacker, Academic Senate Executive Director
    Dan Dooley, Vice President, External Relations
    Steve Juarez, Associate Vice President and Director, State Governmental Relations

Encl (1)
RESOLUTION OF THE ASSEMBLY OF THE ACADEMIC SENATE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

WHEREAS:

Article IX, Section 9 of the Constitution of the State of California provides that “The University of California shall constitute a public trust, to be administered by the existing corporation known as ‘The Regents of the University of California,’ with full powers of organization and government, subject only to such legislative control as may be necessary to insure the security of its funds and compliance with the terms of the endowments of the university and such competitive bidding procedures as may be made applicable to the university by statute . . .”; and

WHEREAS:

Article IX, Section 9 of the Constitution of the State of California also provides that specified elected officials shall serve as Regents and that the Governor shall appoint and the Senate must confirm a specified number of additional members of the Board of Regents; and

WHEREAS:

Article IX, Section 9 of the Constitution of the State of California further provides that “The university shall be entirely independent of all political or sectarian influence and kept free therefrom in the appointment of its regents and in the administration of its affairs, . . .” and

WHEREAS:

Under the leadership of The Regents, the University has developed into the world’s premiere research university; and

WHEREAS:

The Regents have a well established pattern of complying with legislative requests to the University; and

WHEREAS:

Members of the California legislature have introduced ACA 24 and SCA 21, which would place before the voters a constitutional amendment repealing the historic autonomy of The Regents of the University of California; and
WHEREAS:

Direct legislative control over the University of California would politicize decisions that directly affect academic freedom and the teaching, research, and service missions of the University;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED BY THE ASSEMBLY OF THE ACADEMIC SENATE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA:

That the existing provisions of Article IX, Section 9 of the Constitution of the State of California provide for sufficient oversight by the legislature and elected officials of the University; and

That preservation of Regental autonomy is essential to ensuring that the University is “independent of all political or sectarian influence,” which is critical to maintenance of the University’s excellence in teaching, research, and service; and

That the Assembly of the Academic Senate strongly opposes any legislative action to strip The Regents of their Constitutional autonomy.