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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

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.