

RECEIVED  
ACADEMIC SENATE / UC DAVIS  
2009 SEP 24 AM 6 191111 Franklin Street  
Oakland, California 94607-5200  
Phone: (510) 987-9074  
Fax: (510) 987-9086  
<http://www.ucop.edu>

September 18, 2009

Professor Robert Powell, Chair  
Davis Division of the Academic Senate  
University of California, Davis  
One Shields Avenue  
Davis, California 95616-8502

Dear Professor <sup>Bob</sup> Powell:

Thank you for your letter of September 1 regarding the decision to not allow faculty to schedule furloughs on instructional days and sharing the Davis faculty's views.

As you can imagine, decisions about how to manage massive reductions in State funding were not taken lightly or without considerable consultation. When I recommended the furlough plan to the Board of Regents in July, I was well aware that it was the least objectionable and most equitable option of all those that we considered. I recognize that your e-mail has to do with furlough implementation for faculty and other issues, but I want to offer this as background information. We are doing everything in our power to ensure that furloughs be limited to a single year and only hope that the State is able to work with us so that we can achieve that aim.

With respect to implementation of the furlough plan, I cannot agree with you more that we must send a strong and compelling message to all of California about the dire consequences of dramatically diminished State support of higher education. The only question is how, and in addressing that question, we encountered a wide variety of opinion. In the end, I had to choose knowing full well that any choice would disappoint some members of our University community. I was convinced by arguments suggesting that there were equally good and compelling ways to demonstrate the impact of State funding cuts without putting our students at a disadvantage.

I also appreciate having your comments about faculty salaries and the state of the UC Retirement System. These are among the most pressing long-range structural challenges we face and finding effective ways of addressing them is a high priority. I will look forward to substantive consultation with the Academic Senate around both of these issues. As you know, our ability to work together to identify and then address effectively our priorities is vital to preserving the integrity and academic quality of this great institution.

Professor Robert Powell, Chair  
September 18, 2009  
Page 2

I appreciate your taking the time to write on this issue of great concern, and I welcome having the Davis faculty's thoughts. This kind of discussion is important to the University and to me personally.

With best wishes, I am,

Sincerely yours,



Mark G. Yudof  
President

cc: Chancellor Katehi  
Interim Provost Pitts  
Professor Oakley  
Academic Council Chair Powell  
Academic Council Vice Chair Simmons  
Executive Vice Chancellor Lavernia