

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA ACADEMIC SENATE

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November 1, 2006

PRESIDENT ROBERT C. DYNES

RE: The Academic Senate's Resolutions on the Research-Funding Issue

Dear Bob:

On September 27 — by a vote of 12 in favor, 5 against, with one abstention — the Academic Council passed the following resolution, subject to ratification by the Assembly:

“The Academic Council instructs the Chair of the Council to advise the President that grave issues of academic freedom would be raised if the Regents were to deviate from the principle that no unit of the University, whether by faculty vote or administrative decision, has the authority to prevent a faculty member from accepting external research funding based solely on the source of funds. Policies such as the faculty code of conduct are already in place on all campuses to uphold the highest standards and integrity of research. The Academic Council believes that the Regental intervention on the basis of assumptions about the moral or political standing of the donor is unwarranted.”

The Assembly met on October 11th. The first action item discussed was the Council's resolution of September 27th. After 85 minutes of lively debate, the Assembly ratified the Academic Council's resolution by a roll-call vote of 27 in favor, 16 opposed.

The Assembly then turned to its second action item, an unrelated matter. After disposing of this item, there being 45 minutes remaining for the consideration of New Business, the Assembly considered two new action items germane to the research-funding issue. There ensued a further 40 minutes of lively debate. Each item was independently passed by a large majority of the Assembly on a show of hands. These two additional resolutions are as follows:

"The Assembly declares its deep disapproval of funding arrangements in which an appearance of academic freedom belies an actual suppression of academic freedom."

and

"The Assembly asserts its conviction that past funding arrangements involving the tobacco industry have been shown to suppress academic freedom."

Please transmit this letter to The Regents in time for distribution in connection with the oral report of the Academic Senate at the next Regents' meeting.

Sincerely yours,



John B. Oakley, Chair
Academic Senate

Copy: Assembly of the Academic Senate
Executive Director Bertero-Barceló