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January 6, 2010

THE REGENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

As you may know, Governor Schwarzenegger this morning delivered his annual State of the State address and included a proposal significantly affecting the University. The Governor is proposing a constitutional amendment that would rebalance the State's priorities – increasing the State's investment in public higher education while reducing its expenditure on corrections without resorting to the early release of prisoners. This proposal would need to be approved by the Legislature before being submitted to the voters for ratification.

I am issuing a statement to the press, and I enclose it for your information. As you will see, I believe this is a bold proposal that makes an important statement about California's values and about the critical role of education in securing California's future. We are informing our advocates and employee community as well.

Chairman Gould also is issuing a statement to the press on the Governor's proposal, and I enclose it as well for your information.

I look forward to discussing this issue further with you, and I will provide additional information when the Governor's 2010-11 State budget proposal is released on Friday.

With best wishes, I am,

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark".

Mark G. Yudof
President

Enclosures

cc: Chancellors

**Statement by President Mark G. Yudof
University of California**

For Release: January 6, 2010

UC President Mark G. Yudof issued the following statement today (Jan. 6) regarding a proposed constitutional amendment for public higher education funding in California unveiled by Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger in his State of the State address:

This is a bold and visionary plan that represents a fundamental restoration of the values and priorities that have made California great. I am extremely pleased that the Governor understands how vital it is to return the University of California and the California State University system to solid financial footing. Over the long term, the Governor's proposal will provide California's public universities with much-needed stability to plan for the future and to maintain affordability, access and excellence. In the short term, however, there are still critical budget shortfalls that will require the attention of the Governor and the Legislature.

Our public universities have been powerful engines of economic growth and social advancement in the past and will be even more vital in the knowledge economy of the future. Any money spent on them should never be seen as a cost, but as an investment in California. I am delighted that Governor Schwarzenegger recognizes the need for our state to invest again in education and innovation. I look forward to working with the Governor and with the Legislature to see that this proposal reaches the ballot so that the people of California may have a voice in their own future.

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**Statement by Russell S. Gould
Chairman, Board of Regents
University of California**

For Release: January 6, 2010

UC Board of Regents Chairman Russell Gould issued the following statement today (Jan. 6) regarding a proposed constitutional amendment for public higher education funding in California unveiled by Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger in his State of the State address:

The Governor's call for shifting state priorities toward higher education is an insightful and essential action. With his higher education proposal, the Governor has acted to take what could be a monumental step forward for the state.

As Chairman of the Board of Regents of the University of California, I look forward to exploring the details of the Governor's idea with my colleagues and to working with the Governor and the Legislature to advance the cause of adequate higher education funding. Securing the funding of higher education is securing the promise of California. The trend of chronic disinvestment in the University of California and the California State University systems must be reversed. The road to a stronger economy and a brighter future for California runs straight through its great public universities.

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