

Subject: RE: Day of Action Support Letter
> >Date: Fri, 30 Oct 2009 16:22:17 -0700
> >From: "President's Office" <President@ucop.edu>
> >To: "Deborah Willis" <deborah.willis@ucr.edu>
> >Cc: <tim.white@ucr.edu>, <provost@ucop.edu>,
> > "Dan Dooley" <Dan.Dooley@ucop.edu>,
> > "Henry Powell - Chair" <Henry.Powell@ucop.edu>,
> > "Daniel Greenstein" <Daniel.Greenstein@ucop.edu>,
> > "Marsha Kelman" Marsha.Kelman@ucop.edu

Dear Professor Willis:

Thank you for your e-mail of October 9 sending the statement supporting, "many of the principles behind the recent protests" that was approved by faculty members in the UC Riverside Department of English. I appreciate you and your colleagues taking the time to send your views on the current crisis facing the University, and I hope you, in turn, will provide this response to them.

I share your concern about the future of the University. You may be interested in the enclosed piece I wrote that recently appeared in the Chronicle of Higher Education. I think you will find that it addresses some of the issues raised in your statement. Let me just add that I believe in public higher education. I have spent my entire professional career working for public universities. The University of California is a treasured public asset and I see my role as trying to preserve its excellence and accessibility in the face of unprecedented budget cuts.

As public support through the State dwindles, the University needs to debate the alternatives. We will not give up on the goal of obtaining adequate State support; however, we cannot ignore the trend over the last twenty years of continuous disinvestment in the University. As I mentioned in the Chronicle article, it would be easy to allow UC to slide into mediocrity, but, that is unacceptable, and, I assure you, it will not happen on my watch. Difficult decisions and choices need to be made to avoid that fate.

The faculty, staff, students, Office of the President, and The Regents need to work together to address the major challenges we face. We need to come up with creative solutions to the funding dilemma that can garner the support of Californians and their elected officials. To that end, the UC Commission on the Future that Regent Russ Gould and I are co-chairing will be a venue to discuss and debate these tough issues and to seek new and innovative approaches.

I urge you to join with us in this effort to improve UC. As you may know, the Commission has established five working groups, each with faculty from a full range of disciplines across the UC system. Representatives from the working groups will be visiting UC Riverside on Tuesday, November 3. If you are able, I hope you and your colleagues take this opportunity to provide feedback on the issues you believe the Commission should consider.

In addition, the Commission's Web site, <http://ucfuture.universityofcalifornia.edu/>, provides an opportunity

to offer any additional thoughts, solutions, or suggestions you may have.

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely yours,

Mark G. Yudof
President

Enclosure

cc: Chancellor White
 Interim Provost Pitts
 Senior Vice President Dooley
Academic Council Chair Powell
 Vice Provost Greenstein
 Associate Vice President Kelman