

Statement of Principles

University of California Office of the President

For more than a decade, the University of California has been moving further and further away from fulfilling its public mission. Californians have watched as increases in student fees have significantly outpaced their ability to pay for them, and as UC executives have shown greater concern for their own personal well being than for California. They have watched one UC scandal after another with little or no responsibility being taken for those scandals. They have reached a point where they demand that the University return to its roots and become the great public institution it was designed to be.

With the recent resignation of University of California President Robert Dynes, we feel it is crucial to the long term health of the UC System that the next person selected as President adhere to the following set of basic principles:

- I. **Education.** That the University of California return to its core mission of educating the next generation of Californians. The University fee structure needs to place students first, and must cease fee policies that place undue burden on students. The current University fees have already had dramatic impacts on affordability and access for all Californians. If the next UC President does not address the issue of student fees, the University will continue to be out of reach for the majority of Californians. The next UC President must also prioritize academic preparation in budget negotiations in order to make UC representative of the state as a whole. The UC President is entirely responsible for making sure that every qualified student has access to the University of California and can afford to attend.
- II. **Transparency.** Let there be light. That the University of California must become a transparent organization and encourage public participation in its decision making process. For far too long, UC has made decisions behind

closed doors with little public oversight. This has led to one scandal after another. It is crucial that the next President openly embrace transparency and insist on protecting the right of the public to participate in the decision making process of the University.

- III. **Patient Care.** That the University of California ensure that the primary concern of its five medical centers be the needs of the patients. The next UC President must commit to implementing efforts to recruit and retain patient care staff at all five medical centers. Recruitment and retention of staff is crucial to quality patient care, and UC must commit to providing market wages and benefits to the medical center employees to stop the high percentage of turnover in the patient care staff. It is unacceptable that these five prestigious public medical centers continue to operate in ways that can negatively affect patient care.
- IV. **Working Families.** That the University of California become a model employer for California. UC's Executive compensation policies have tarnished the reputation of the institution. At the same time, frontline workers who play a critical role in serving patients and students are not paid a wage that can sustain them and their families. According to a 2005 study, thousands of UC workers earned wages too low to support their families. It is crucial that the next President be committed to ensuring that the UC system become a model for all other employers in the proper way to value both the hard work of the employees who make the system work and the communities they live in.
- V. **Public Mission.** That the University of California stop all affiliations with entities such as the tobacco industry. As was the case with the public efforts to have UC divest from tobacco companies, it is inappropriate for a public institution such as UC to continue down a path of providing research for the tobacco industry. UC is a public institution with a public mission to do what is best for all Californians. The continuation of a research association with the tobacco industry by UC goes against the best interest of all

Californians.

It is our hope that every candidate for the position of UC President will publicly embrace these principles and if selected to lead the greatest public institution of higher education will take immediate action to enact them.

Signed by the following:

*American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees
Local 3299*

American Federation of Teachers

California Nurses Association

Coalition of University Employees

UAW Local 2865

University Professional & Technical Employees CWA 9119

University of California Student Association