



April 6, 2007

JOHN OAKLEY  
Chair, Academic Senate

*Subject: RE-89 – adoption of policy restricting University acceptance of funding from the tobacco industry*

On April 2, 2007, the Divisional Council of the Berkeley Division considered the proposed policy cited above, and the comments of the divisional Committee on Academic Freedom and Committee on Research.

Divisional Council endorsed the position of the Committee on Academic Freedom:

The Academic Freedom committee is cognizant of the sordid history of tobacco-funded research, and understands that the motivation for the policy lies not just in moral disapproval of the tobacco industry, but in the insidious form in which that industry has made use of and corrupted academic research. Nonetheless, the Committee unanimously believes that RE-89 would constitute a serious violation of the academic freedom of researchers. The ability of researchers to seek funds from any source, provided the research done is consistent with university policies, is an integral part of academic freedom. Researchers are free to disdain tobacco funding, and it is consistent with academic freedom to require disclosure of all funding sources, but we believe it would be unwise for the Regents to prevent researchers from pursuing this (or any otherwise lawful) funding source. We therefore reiterate our commitment to the principle of freedom in research funding sources, as declared by the University Senate, adopted on 11 October 2006.

Sincerely,

William Drummond  
Chair, Berkeley Division of the Academic Senate

Cc: Christopher Kutz, Chair, Committee on Academic Freedom  
Miguel Villas-Boas, Chair, Committee on Research  
Diane Sprouse, Senate Analyst, Committee on Research  
Lili Vicente, Senate staff, Committee on Academic Freedom