



THE REGENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

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Regent

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December 18, 2006

Ms. Marcia Brown-Machen
Campaign to Defend Academic Integrity
Tobacco Prevention Program Director
Health and Human Services Department
City of Berkeley
1947 Center Street, Second Floor
Berkeley, CA 94704

Dear Ms. Brown-Machen:

Thank you for your letter of November 1, 2006 regarding tobacco industry funding of research at the University of California, and for transmitting your thoughtful suggestions for a draft Regental policy declining funding from the tobacco industry. I apologize for my belated response, but want to express my sincere appreciation for your interest in this important issue, and for the public comments you offered at the November Regents meeting.

As you are aware, The Regents considered whether the University should adopt a policy restricting the acceptance of research funding from the tobacco industry at their meeting of September 20, 2006. Following discussion at that meeting, The Regents referred the issue to the Academic Senate, the University-wide faculty body, for further consideration. At the November Regents meeting, Academic Senate Chair John Oakley reported back to The Regents on the Academic Senate's consideration of the issue.

The Academic Senate's consideration included passage of three resolutions on the research funding issue. Academic Senate Chair Oakley conveyed these resolutions to President Dynes, who distributed them to his fellow Regents. Chair Oakley also presented the resolutions at the November Regents meeting.

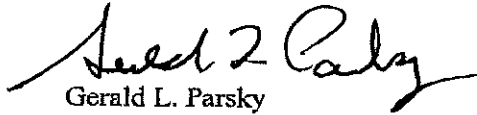
I appreciate that there are legitimate concerns regarding the corporate actions of the tobacco industry and about the deleterious health effects of tobacco; these concerns must be weighed against the University's longstanding commitment to academic freedom. Because a policy prohibiting acceptance of research funding from a particular industry sector could have a significant effect on faculty and raise issues regarding academic freedom, I have paid close attention to the Academic Senate's recommendations in considering whether to advocate adoption of such a policy. My understanding of the Academic Senate's recent resolutions is that while the Senate has expressed concern about past funding arrangements involving the tobacco industry, the Senate has not expressed support for adoption of a University wide ban on acceptance of tobacco industry funding.

Márcia Brown-Machen
Tobacco Prevention Program Director
City of Berkeley
December 18, 2006
Page 2

Given the complexity and critical nature of the debate, the Regents are not inclined to advocate adoption of a University-wide policy banning acceptance of tobacco industry funding absent further discussion with and recommendation by the University's Academic Senate.

I appreciate your interest in the University's ongoing consideration of this important matter.

Sincerely,



Gerald L. Parsky
Chairman

cc: Regents
President Dynes
Academic Council Chair Oakley
Acting Secretary Shaw
Vice Provost Coleman