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# Campaign to Defend Academic Integrity

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April 28, 2006

UC Regents  
Office of the Secretary of the Regents  
1111 Franklin St., 12th floor  
Oakland, CA 94607

Dear Regents,

We are writing to ask you to take a leadership position in having the Regents adopt a policy of not accepting money from the tobacco industry.

As you know, in 2001 the UC Regents divested from tobacco companies. The decision to divest is widely recognized by other universities throughout the country. Seeing that the Regents recognize the dangerous and unethical activities of the tobacco industry, it makes sense that the Board supports a systemwide policy which would decline new funding from tobacco companies in the form of contracts, grants, and gifts. Such a policy would be an extension to the commendable divestment policy.

A large body of research, much of which was conducted by University of California faculty, has demonstrated that the tobacco industry has developed and implemented sophisticated strategies to use the funding of academic research in order to confuse, rather than enlighten, the academic community and the public at large about the dangers of smoking and secondhand smoke. This campaign by the industry is, at its heart, antithetical to the very mission of the University, which is to promote understanding and enlightenment.

In response to this evidence, and following the lead of many other universities around the world, faculty from seven academic units on four UC campuses adopted policies to decline funding from the tobacco industry in order to protect the integrity of their academic mission. These decisions led to an extensive debate within the Academic Senate over the propriety of these decisions by individual academic units. In March 2005, the Academic Council adopted a resolution entitled "Restrictions on Research Funding Sources." After extensive debate, the Senate determined that it was inappropriate for individual units to adopt such policies and that any policy to decline funds based on the source should apply to the entire UC System and be made by the Regents.

UC is now falling behind other esteemed universities that are protecting their campus and the integrity of their research from manipulation by the tobacco industry.

We look forward to the opportunity to meet with you in person to further discuss this important issue.

Sincerely yours,

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cc: Senate Chair Oakley

Encl: Campaign to Defend Academic Integrity Proposal