



OFFICE OF THE ACADEMIC SENATE

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April 13, 2007

Professor John Oakley
Chair, Academic Senate
University of California
1111 Franklin Street, 12th Floor
Oakland, California 94607-5200Re: Systemwide Senate Review of The Regents' Proposed RE-89 – Adoption of Policy Restricting
University Acceptance of Funding from the Tobacco Industry

Dear John:

In response to your request of February 26, the San Diego Divisional Senate Council discussed The Regents' item RE-89 – Adoption of Policy Restricting University Acceptance of Funding from the Tobacco Industry. The Senate Council decided that this item would not be distributed for committee comment and review.

On July 21, 2004, Academic Council adopted a resolution, originally submitted by the University Committee on Research Policy, which reads as follows:

“Resolved, That the principles of academic freedom and the policies of the University of California require that individual faculty members be free to accept or refuse research support from any source, consistent with their individual judgment and conscience and with University policy. Therefore, no unit of the University should be directed (by faculty vote or administrative decision) to refuse to process, accept, or administer a research award based on the source of the funds; and no special encumbrances should be placed on a faculty member’s ability to solicit or accept awards based on the source of the funds.”

When subsequently asked to consider this resolution, the San Diego Divisional Senate Council strongly supported it, stating in its March 14, 2005 letter that “the San Diego Senate Council found that the UCORP resolution is sensible and entirely consistent with the principles informing academic freedom, research integrity, institutional interest, and, withal, the structures and mechanisms of shared governance.”

The current Senate Council noted that The Regents' proposed item RE-89 would be in conflict with its previously stated position in support of the resolution adopted by the Academic Council. In making the decision not to circulate RE-89 for committee review, the Council reaffirmed its previous position regarding the principles of academic freedom and restrictions on research funding. The Council also stated its concern that such a ban would open the door to endless future prohibitions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Henry C. Powell", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Henry C. Powell, Chair
Academic Senate, San Diego Division