

STATE OF CALIFORNIA
TOBACCO EDUCATION AND RESEARCH OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

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September 13, 2006

The Regents of the University of California
 1111 Franklin St., 12th floor
 Oakland, CA 94607

Dear Regents:

On behalf of the Tobacco Education and Research Oversight Committee (TEROC), I am writing to urge you to adopt the policy as outlined in the resolution from the Campaign to Defend Academic Integrity, and prohibit the acceptance of new funding in any form from the tobacco industry for the entire UC system. As the Committee legislatively designated to oversee the California Tobacco Control Program, TEROC believes that it is important that the University of California (UC) Regents set a clear and unequivocal policy regarding acceptance of tobacco money.

There is a growing body of evidence showing that the tobacco industry has used selective funding of research at reputable universities nationwide to manipulate the reporting of the results and slow public understanding of the dangers of smoking and secondhand smoke. Tobacco industry funding of research has also been used to gain public credibility, but to the detriment of the public's health. Therefore, TEROC continues to support ways to counter tobacco industry efforts to undermine the integrity and honest dissemination of university research—particularly research conducted by the UC.

Allowing the tobacco companies to associate themselves with the UC boosts their public image campaigns and gives them the cover they need to continue undermining public health efforts to reduce tobacco use. However, recent events underscore that the UC has a vested interest in cutting off research ties to the tobacco companies. US District Judge Gladys Kessler ruled on Thursday, August 17, that the tobacco industry engaged in a decades-long racketeering enterprise that conspired to hide the dangers of smoking. To continue to condone funding from these corrupt companies places in question the integrity and tarnishes the image of one of California's greatest resources - the UC educational system.

TEROC, established by the California Legislature to provide advice and oversight for the Departments of Education and Health Services, and UC regarding the implementation of the Health Education and Research Accounts of Proposition 99, is comprised of many members knowledgeable in the funding of programs and research.



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We hope the UC Board of Regents will carefully review the resolution and decide to prohibit the acceptance of money from an industry that continues to be responsible for the deaths of more than 400,000 Americans every year (approximately 40,000 Californians). Implementing this policy will make a strong statement about your commitment to integrity, preserve the good name of the UC system, and acknowledge the societal norm that has been established in California that counters pro-tobacco influences in our communities, including our public university system.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kirk Kleinschmidt', written in a cursive style.

Kirk Kleinschmidt
Chairperson