



Michael T. Brown
Telephone: (510) 987-0711
Fax: (510) 763-0309
Email: Michael.Brown@ucop.edu

*Chair of the Assembly and the Academic Council
Faculty Representative to the Board of Regents
University of California
1111 Franklin Street, 12th Floor
Oakland, California 94607-5200*

February 11, 2008

PRESIDENT ROBERT C. DYNES

Re: Academic Assembly Resolution on Limiting UC's Role in Manufacturing Nuclear Weapons

Dear Bob:

At its January 30, 2008 meeting, the Assembly of the Academic Senate adopted, by an overwhelming majority, the following resolution to be submitted for your consideration and for presentation to The Regents:

RECITALS:

1. In 2003, Congress enacted legislation requiring that the federal contracts for the three University-managed National Laboratories, which had been managed continuously by the University of California since their beginnings some 50-65 years ago, be competed.
2. The 2004 Academic Senate faculty opinion survey showed strong faculty support for UC's efforts to compete for the Laboratories, however, the survey was conducted before it was learned that UC was surrendering a previously held right to terminate unilaterally its management of the Laboratories and was tying itself to contracts whereby the term could be unilaterally extended by Department of Energy/National Nuclear Security Administration (DOE/NNSA) for up to 20 years.
3. The production at Los Alamos of plutonium "pits," which are essential components of nuclear weapons, was originally introduced as a scientific and engineering pilot project to explore the potential for the development of pit production technologies.
4. The Los Alamos National Security Limited Liability Company, of which UC is a partner, has the prospect of becoming the nation's sole manufacturer of plutonium pits.

WHEREAS THE ACADEMIC SENATE:

- has grave concerns about UC's role in managing the Los Alamos National Laboratory under the current contract; and
- has learned that the Prime Contract for Los Alamos allows for the possibility of the DOE/NNSA increasing the number of plutonium "pits" to as many as the DOE/NNSA deems necessary, beyond any UC-imposed limits;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. The President, or the President's designee, should carefully monitor the level of production of plutonium pits at the labs, as well as any role of the labs in the oversight and management of such production, and issue a report on the results of this monitoring on an annual basis to the Academic Senate; and
2. If the level of production of plutonium pits at the labs can not be accurately reported to the Academic Senate for any reason, UC should reassess its participation in the management of the pertinent labs; and
3. Should any National Laboratory managed by UC directly or through a lab-management partnership begin either to produce or to manage the production of plutonium pits for any purpose beyond current low levels, or for the purpose of nuclear warhead replacement or production, UC should reassess its participation in the management of that Laboratory.

On behalf of the Assembly, I request that this resolution be shared with The Regents and the rest of the University Community.

Sincerely,



Michael T. Brown, Chair
Academic Council

Copy: Assembly
María Bertero-Barceló, Senate Director