



UNIVERSITY  
PROFESSIONAL  
AND TECHNICAL  
EMPLOYEES

CWA Local 9119  
AFL-CIO

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## Support Letter

SCA 21 (Yee, Ashburn, and Romero) and ACA 24 (Nestande and Portantino)

June 3, 2009

In 1879, the University of California (UC) Board of Regents was granted autonomy on all issues related to the management of the institution, subject to legislative control only on fiduciary regulations. Thus, statutory laws are generally not binding over the University.

As a result of a number of egregious actions by the Regents, including exorbitant executive pay hikes, the above mentioned Senators and Assembly Members have introduced Constitutional Amendments to allow greater public oversight, transparency, and accountability of the institution.

In essence, SCA 21 and ACA 24 would remove the Regents' autonomy and allow the Legislature to enact statutes effecting UC policy, similar to authority granted over the California State University (CSU). If approved by two-thirds of the Legislature, the measure would be put before the voters for final approval. Under these Constitutional changes, Regents would no longer be above the law, allowed to act like a private institution, or ignore the will of the people.

Over the past several years, the Legislature has made several attempts to reign in UC's lack of transparency and accountability. With bipartisan support, the Legislature has passed legislation regarding executive compensation, open meetings, public records, worker protections, and student speech rights, resulting in important changes to CSU. However, these laws only urged or requested that UC follow suit. The UC has continuously ignored the Legislature and these much needed good government reforms.

UC has been plagued by several scandals over the years, most recently when the Regents approved double digit compensation hikes in May of 2009 for two new chancellors earning over \$400,000 each. In the same meeting, they significantly raised student fees and squelched public comment by holding the meeting via teleconference.

With the latest executive pay hikes, UC Regents yet again demonstrated that they are completely out of touch with reality. We can no longer allow the Regents to violate the public trust and disrespect students and taxpayers.

Therefore, the California Labor Federation, AFL-CIO supports SCA 21 and ACA 24 and asks for your support as well.

For more information or to support, please contact Rodney Orr, UPTe-CWA Local 9119's Legislative Director at 805-455-2813.