Last night a noose was found hanging from a light fixture in the Geisel Library on the University of California, San Diego campus. This morning, we were informed by campus officials that a student has come forward and claimed she and two others were responsible. Whatever the intent of the authors of this act, it was a despicable expression of racial hatred, and we are outraged. It has no place in civilized society and it will not be tolerated – not on this particular campus, not on any University of California campus. A full investigation is underway by both campus and law enforcement officials. We support it. Appalling acts of this sort cannot go unpunished.

In the meantime, we will work in every way possible to ensure that all members of the UC San Diego community and the entire University system can learn and live in the safe and civil environment called for in the codes of conduct in place on each campus and facility. To the UCSD students and all others who have been confronted with this ugliness, and who are understandably traumatized by it, we extend both our sympathy and our pledge to root out racism whenever and wherever it arises on our campuses.

Now is the time for all members of the UC community to dig deep into their hearts and consciences and to reach out to one another with compassion and understanding. Now is the time to affirm that there is no place for any expression of racism.

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Statement of UC President Mark G. Yudof, the Chancellors of the ten UC campuses, and the Chair and Vice Chair of the Universitywide Academic Senate
February 26, 2010

As leaders of the University of California, we are deeply disturbed by recent events at a few of our campuses. We condemn all acts of racism, intolerance and incivility. Regardless of how such offenses are rationalized, or what free speech rights they purport to express, the acts we have witnessed are unacceptable. The actions of these individuals reflect neither our principles nor our values, nor the sentiments of the University of California community. We will not allow the actions of a few to speak for this University. We denounce them.

Each of our campuses is committed to promoting and defending a learning environment that values and supports each student, faculty and staff member in an atmosphere that is open, civil, fair, caring and respectful. These values are enshrined in the “Principles of Community” each campus adheres to and that clearly outline our expectations for behavior on our campuses. We expect that all members of our university community, including our visitors, will be respectful of differing views, opinions, experiences, and background.

When violations occur, it is incumbent on us, as leaders and as stewards of free speech on our campuses, to push back. We have a responsibility to speak out against activities that promote intolerance or undermine civil dialogue. As always, the remedy for bad speech is good speech. For that reason, we call on all members of the UC community – students, faculty and staff – to affirm and defend the values of the University of California. We are speaking out and ask that you do the same whenever, wherever and however you confront behavior that violates the principles and values of this University.
PRESIDENT MARK YUDOF  
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA  

Re: UCAAD Statement on Racist Incidents at UCSD

Dear Mark:

I enclose a statement from the University Committee on Affirmative Action and Diversity (UCAAD), unanimously endorsed by the Academic Council, deploring the recent racist incidents at UCSD, and expressing support for Chancellor Fox’s rapid response. UCAAD stresses the critical importance of promoting a climate of inclusion on all University of California campuses and providing support for the students.

Sincerely,

Henry C. Powell, Chair  
Academic Council

Copy:  Academic Council  
         Martha Winnacker, Academic Senate Executive Director

Encl.
HENRY POWELL, CHAIR  
ACADEMIC COUNCIL  

Re: Statement on the Recent Party Promoted by a Group of UCSD Students  

Dear Harry:  

Members of the University of California Affirmative Action and Diversity Committee (UCAAD) were distressed by the news published in the media regarding a party promoted by a group of UCSD students this past weekend, offensive to the values of African American students and those University members that value diversity. While waiting for the results of an investigation launched by UC San Diego officers, UCAAD would like to endorse UCSD chancellor’s quick condemnation of the event and offer their support to the students and others that strive to promote a climate of inclusion on the University of California campuses.  

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions regarding UCAAD’s comments.  

Sincerely,  

/s/  
M. Ines Boechat, M.D.  
Chair, UCAAD  

Copy: Martha Winnacker, Executive Director