EXECUTIVE VICE CHANCELLORS

Dear Colleagues:

I am writing to advise you that the Patent Acknowledgment amendment process is being transitioned from the Office of the President to local campus administration.

As you know, all University employees have been asked to sign an amendment to the UC Patent Acknowledgment form. A recent decision of the US Supreme Court in *Stanford v. Roche* negatively affected the intellectual property rights of Stanford faculty and Stanford University and has potential implications for the entire academic community. This decision has prompted Stanford, UC, and many other universities to amend their Patent Acknowledgments. Signature on the amendment is needed in order to ensure that the University is able to meet its legal obligations regarding inventions pursuant to the terms of sponsored research agreements and material transfer agreements, including those with the federal government.

After revising the Patent Acknowledgment form for new hires last fall, UC partnered with an outside vendor to conduct an email campaign to collect signatures of the Patent Amendment from existing employees. These employees were asked to complete the signature process by February 29, 2012. Information was provided to employees via e-mail, internal news stories, and on-line at: [http://atyourservice.ucop.edu/employees/policies_employee_labor_relations/patent-acknowledgment/](http://atyourservice.ucop.edu/employees/policies_employee_labor_relations/patent-acknowledgment/). The information included an explanation of the reasons for the amendment; the nature of the amendment, including the protections it affords faculty with respect to their own inventions vis-à-vis outside consultants; and the fact that signature is mandatory.

At this point, many have signed, but a significant number have not done so.

Going forward, all employees who have not yet signed the amendment will be able to do so by logging into their personal accounts on At Your Service Online. UCOP is in the process of communicating this information to campuses separately, including how to use AYSO for this purpose.

Each campus needs to ensure that the amendments are signed by all those whose use of University research funds, resources, and facilities place the University at risk of being unable to meet third-party obligations regarding inventions. At your request, systemwide determinations of specific steps to ensure the University's ability to comply with its legal obligations will be deferred for a few more months while campuses endeavor to increase completion percentages. I
understand that some campuses have already begun putting steps in place and certainly encourage such action.

The Office of Ethics, Compliance and Audit Services will continue to provide your campus, through your Campus Ethics and Compliance Officer, monthly reports in May and June that will include specially curated information, such as a list of all extramurally funded faculty, staff researchers, and post-docs who have not yet signed. Reports will be provided on a quarterly basis thereafter and will not contain the supplemental information.

I appreciate your cooperation in this effort and will be happy to answer any questions you may have or provide additional information if it would be helpful.

Sincerely,

Lawrence H. Pitts
Provost and Executive Vice President
Academic Affairs

Cc:  Academic Council Chair Anderson
     General Counsel Robinson
     Senior Vice President Vacca
     Vice Provost Carlson
     Vice President Duckett
     Executive Director Streitz