



OFFICE OF THE PROVOST AND EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT –
ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
1111 Franklin Street, 12th Floor
Oakland, California 94607-5200

December 16, 2009

ELENA FUENTES-AFFLICK, MD, MPH
Chair, UCSF Academic Senate

Dear Elena:

Thank you for your letter of December 8, 2009, regarding the Future of UC Retirement Benefits Task Force. As the Chair of this Task Force, I appreciate the active involvement shown by the UCSF faculty in their participation at the PEB Forum. Regarding the Senate's questions about trust and transparency, as well as the three questions included in your December 8th letter, we are in the process of answering a number of the questions raised during the location forums and plan to post the answers on the taskforce website after the first of the year (www.universityofcalifornia.edu/news/ucrpfuture/).

I agree with your thoughts for organizing a concerted effort to lobby on behalf of the university. The Office of the President has created an advocacy process, including a website, www.ucforca.org, for this purpose. Please sign up and "tell a friend." We need many advocates so that the voices of higher education are clearly and widely heard. We will expand this effort after the beginning of the year, and I encourage you to work with your colleagues in bringing the message of saving higher education to the legislature and the Governor. In addition, you raised questions about efforts to engage the unions on these issues. Please know that we will continue to engage them in supporting UC in the coming months and years. We're all in this together.

Your letter requests specific information used by the Task Force work teams in evaluating the potential options and alternatives for post employment benefit changes. As you might imagine, the input to the Task Force on these issues to date has been voluminous and complex, compiled from internal constituencies and from the campus visits. We are now shaping this material into options for potential policy and design changes which will be broadly shared across the university community during the next round of location forums in the spring. As for full engagement of the Academic Senate in the PEB Task Force deliberations, I think the Task Force structure and process provides ample opportunity for this. So, I ask for your patience for the moment.

I'm sorry I can't attend your next Coordinating Committee meeting on January 4th, but will try to participate in your next meeting, either in person or by phone. Please let me know when you will meet.

ELENA FUENTES-AFFLICK, MD, MPH
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Thank you for your, and all my UCSF colleagues, for your continued commitment and ongoing dedication to the University of California.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "L. Pitts", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Lawrence H. Pitts
Interim Provost and Executive Vice President
Academic Affairs

Cc: Academic Council Chair Powell
Academic Council Vice Chair Simmons
Executive Director Scott
Executive Director Winnacker