THE REGENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

As you know, Chairman Gould and I issued a statement earlier today on the deplorable incident that took place overnight at UC San Diego. Earlier this week, Chairman Gould shared with you information about the University's response to a previous racial incident at UCSD and the disruption of speech at UC Irvine by the Israeli ambassador to the United States. In addition, Chancellor Katehi earlier this week deplored an incident at the UC Davis campus in which a Jewish student found a swastika carved into the door of her residence hall room, an act that is being investigated as a hate crime.

While these incidents are not directly connected, the Chancellors, the leadership of the Academic Senate, and I believe this is an important moment to object forcefully to actions of racism, intolerance, and incivility wherever they may occur in the University of California system. We are issuing a joint statement this afternoon and will be disseminating it widely. I enclose a copy for your reference. As noted in Chairman Gould's letter earlier this week, we will discuss these issues more fully at the March Regents' meeting.

With best wishes, I am,

Sincerely yours,

Mark G. Yudof
President

Enclosure

cc: Chancellors
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.

Mark G. Yudof
President
University of California

Henry Powell
Chair
UC Academic Senate

Daniel Simmons
Vice Chair
UC Academic Senate

Robert J. Birgeneau
Chancellor
UC Berkeley

Linda P.B. Katehi
Chancellor
UC Davis

Michael V. Drake, M.D.
Chancellor
UC Irvine

Gene Block
Chancellor
UC Los Angeles

Steve Kang
Chancellor
UC Merced

Timothy P. White
Chancellor
UC Riverside

Marye Anne Fox
Chancellor
UC San Diego

Susan Desmond-Hellmann
Chancellor
UC San Francisco

Henry T. Yang
Chancellor
UC Santa Barbara

George Blumenthal
Chancellor
UC Santa Cruz