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AMERICAN COUNCIL OF  
TRUSTEES AND ALUMNI

Anne D. Neal  
*President*

September 13, 2007

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Mr. Richard C. Blum, Chairman  
The Regents of the University of California  
Office of the Secretary of the Regents  
1111 Franklin Street, 12<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Oakland, CA 94607

**VIA U.S. MAIL & FAX—510-987-9224**

Dear Mr. Blum:

Jerry L. Martin  
*Chairman*  
Lynne V. Cheney  
*Chairman Emeritus*

I write on behalf of the American Council of Trustees and Alumni, a non-partisan, non-profit organization dedicated to academic freedom, accountability, and excellence in higher education.

Richard D. Lamm  
*Vice Chairman*

We are deeply concerned by the news of UC Irvine Chancellor Michael Drake's decision to revoke the offer to Dr. Erwin Chemerinsky to head the new Irvine law school. The decision has drawn widespread criticism and has opened UC to claims that its hiring process is flawed and driven by inappropriate political considerations.

In the wake of this controversy, we call upon the Regents to undertake a systematic review of the integrity of the academic hiring process and the state of intellectual diversity at UC. Universities must encourage and foster opposing viewpoints. When—as here—administrative actions suggest that the university is averse to the robust exchange of ideas, corrective action is in order.

I enclose a copy of ACTA's report, [\*Intellectual Diversity: Time for Action\*](#). It describes in detail how trustees and administrators can protect academic freedom and ensure free inquiry on campus. Among other things, it recommends that institutions take steps such as:

- A review of hiring and promotion practices to ensure that quality of research and teaching—not ideological litmus tests—are the criteria for job security;
- An institutional self-study to assess how well the university is living up to the principles of intellectual diversity;
- A public call for diversity of viewpoints in panels and lecture series; and

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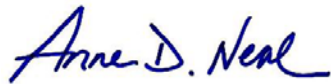
- Inclusion of intellectual diversity concerns in faculty teaching guidelines and student course evaluation forms.

UC would not be the first major public university to undertake a review. The University of Colorado system announced last year that it would examine internal procedures at both the hiring and performance review levels to ensure that academic, rather than ideological, considerations govern personnel decisions.

A systematic review initiated by UC would do much to ensure that UC retains the public trust.

We welcome the opportunity for further discussion and look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely yours,



Anne D. Neal  
President

Enclosure