

June 30, 2009

To: President Yudof

From: Benjamin Sudakov, UCLA Mathematics Department

There are two essential issues that UCOP should take the right position on:

1. Between furloughs and pay cuts, furloughs are much preferred. Maintaining our nominal salary will be extremely helpful in preserving our pension benefits. It will be also good for the university, since most of the grant agencies calculate the summer support which they give based on current salary. Since overhead is %58 percent, decreasing the nominal salaries will also decrease the amount of money which university will get form grants
2. An 8% cut is already huge (also the situation is hard for most state schools, not that UC is the only place where the salaries will be actually reduced!). There are people suggesting that the cuts should be progressive, i.e., the % cut would be much higher for higher paid faculty. I think this will have devastating effect on the quality of faculty and research which will be done in UC. Higher paid faculty are generally the faculty that is most distinguished and most mobile. If the cuts are progressive, many of our top faculty will leave. UC can become a mediocre university in a very short time. None of us wants that!
Do you?

Benjamin Sudakov

Incumbent of the David Saxon Presidential Term Chair

UCLA Mathematics Department