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UNIVERSITY
PROFESSIONAL
AND TECHNICAL
EMPLOYEES

CWA Local 9119
AFL-CIO

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University of
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Dear Chancellor Block,

I am writing as the President of UPTE-CWA 9119 at UCLA representing over 2,500 research, technical and health care employees on campus. The purpose of this letter is to respond to your recent memos to staff concerning the University of California's finances.

Chancellor Block, the sky is not really falling on UC, despite the state's budget problems. First of all, only about 18% of UC's operating expense is funded by the state budget. Secondly, UC is targeted for sizable funds from the Federal Stimulus Program. Thirdly, most UC researchers are paid from federal grants, private organizations, or donations and not from state funds. Instead of costing UC money, many of our researchers actually make money for the university through the sizable "overhead cost" tacked onto every research project. Similarly, our health care professionals that work in UCLA's Medical Centers work for a profit making entity, which continues to thrive financially.

Our members will not be frightened into believing that UC is really running out of money right now, just as UPTE is bargaining for decent wages for research, technical, and health care staffers. We know that the money is there because UC pays more than 400 executives annual salaries over \$200,000 each. And UC pays almost \$1 million dollars annually to Mark Yudof, the president of our public university. That's more than \$81 million dollars right there!

Chancellor Block, our members fully understand that budgets are all about priorities. We ask you then, "What could be a more important priority than an intelligent, well-trained, and deeply committed work force?"

If you would like to discuss this matter at further length, I would be available to meet at your convenience.

Very truly yours,

Max Hechter, MPH
UPTE UCLA President
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