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July 13, 2009

CHANCELLORS

Dear Colleagues:

My predecessor, President Robert C. Dynes, wrote to the Chancellors on June 21, 2007, to transmit the newly-developed UC Policy for Addressing Religious Holiday Conflicts with Residence Hall "Move-in" Days. A copy of that transmittal and Policy is attached. I have also reviewed the University's report of June 2008 to the State Legislature regarding the implementation steps by the campuses regarding this policy.

I am happy to affirm this 2007 policy. I am also pleased to know that the University Registrars have collaborated, with the respective divisional Academic Senates, so that the academic calendars starting with 2011-2012 no longer include such conflicts. It is also clear from the 2008 report that the campuses had been very diligent in their respective efforts for the implementation of the policy for 2008-2009.

However, concerns have been expressed to me that some additional improved steps might yet be taken with respect to informing students and their families during the next two years about the 2007 policy and the options available to those students affected by such holiday conflicts. In reviewing the 2007 policy, I noted that paragraph no. 4 about communication steps is not comprehensive in its description of what is expected about such information efforts.

Accordingly, I thought it might be useful to outline the following so that there is a uniform understanding among all campuses as to the communication efforts. This is particularly and immediately relevant since the 2009 housing move-in dates for our two semester-calendar general campuses (Berkeley and Merced) overlap with the Muslim religious holiday of Ramadan in late August and the 2009 move-in dates for the seven quarter-calendar general campuses overlap with the Jewish religious holiday of Rosh Hashanah and the Muslim religious holiday of Eid al-Fitr in late September.

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While I recognize that some of what is outlined below may already be in existence at several, if not most, campuses, the following are what should be the regular practice at all campuses:

- a. A permanent posting of the 2007 University policy on the appropriate campus housing information Web sites, with particular attention drawn to the steps and deadlines needed for making alternative arrangements, with an explanation that the academic calendars starting with 2011-2012 have been developed to avoid major religious holiday conflicts;
- b. In any future year that such a conflict arises, the inclusion of a summary of the University policy in the general housing information documents and the individualized housing assignments mailed or given to each student each year;
- c. For those years in which such conflicts exist, the distribution, via both U.S. mail and electronic mail each June, of the University policy by each campus to any faith-based organizations, either on-campus or off-campus, at which incoming students who might be affected by such religious holiday conflict might learn about the University policy and the alternative solutions available to them.

With respect to (b) and (c), I would appreciate your reviewing the practices presently in place at your campus and, if feasible, implementing any changes even for this summer.

I appreciate your cooperation in this matter.

With best wishes, I am,

Sincerely yours,



Mark G. Yudof
President

Enclosure

cc: Members, President's Cabinet
Associate Vice President Juarez

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OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

Robert C. Dynes
President

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June 21, 2007

CHANCELLORS

Dear Colleagues:

Policy for Addressing Religious Holiday Conflicts with Residence Hall "Move-In" Days

The enclosed *Policy for Addressing Religious Holiday Conflicts with Residence Hall "Move-In" Days* is effective on the dates contained in the policy. Paragraphs 3, 4, and 5 are effective immediately and the campuses should ensure they are implemented before students move into campus residence halls in fall 2007. Campuses shall also begin the process for implementing paragraph 2 and the effective date for implementation shall be no later than June 1, 2008. Any future academic calendars adopted by the University shall comply with this policy.

Representatives of the Jewish community and members of the California Legislature have expressed a desire for the University to avoid the conflicts that have arisen between fall residence hall move-in days and the Jewish High Holy Days of Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur. Concerns over previous conflicts led to the development of this policy in consultation with members of the Jewish community and the Legislature.

In developing the guidelines referenced in paragraph 2 of this policy, the University has agreed to and will consult with religious community leaders, including Jewish community leaders. The policy also requires the University to report to the Legislature as we develop these guidelines.

Questions concerning the Policy should be directed to the Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic and Health Affairs.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bob".

Robert C. Dynes

Enclosure

cc: Members, President's Cabinet
Principal Officers of The Regents
Provost and Executive Vice President Hume
Vice President Sakaki
Vice Provost Justus
Academic Council Chair Oakley
Assistant Vice President Arditti
Universitywide Policy Coordinator Capell

Policy for Addressing Religious Holiday Conflicts with Residence Hall "Move-In" Days

1. This policy is adopted by the University as a result of conflicts that have arisen over the years, including in the fall of 2006, between fall residence hall move-in days and the Jewish High Holy Days of Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur.
2. In setting the common academic calendar after 2010, the responsible University bodies – the Registrars, the Academic Senate (both campus Divisions and the Academic Council), Office of the President staff, and campus calendar committees -- shall choose calendars (semester and quarter) that avoid scheduling fall residence hall move-in days for students that conflict with the observance of a major religious holiday. Exceptions are to be made only if there are overriding academic or administrative considerations that would make such a calendar unworkable. The University will develop written guidelines to delineate such considerations. For example, these might include the need to complete the required minimum number of instructional days and the need to finish summer quarter before the move-in dates.

The University shall provide written reports on its progress in developing the written guidelines to the Senate Education Committee and the Assembly Higher Education Committee on September 1, 2007 and March 1, 2008. The University shall complete development of the written guidelines no later than June 1, 2008, and shall provide the written guidelines to the Senate Education Committee and to the Assembly Higher Education Committee upon completion of the guidelines.

3. In those exceptional cases where the University adopts a calendar that would create a conflict between observance of a major religious holiday and residence hall move-in dates for new students, the campuses shall abide by the following guidelines:
 - a. At some campuses, residence hall move-in of all students is accomplished on a single day of a weekend. Those campuses shall choose the weekend day that does not conflict with either observance of a one-day religious holiday or the first day of a multi-day religious holiday.
 - b. For campuses that have multiple move-in days including both days of the weekend, students who observe the holidays shall be given the opportunity to move in on the day that does not conflict with either a one-day religious holiday or the first day of a multi-day religious holiday. In addition, those students shall be given the opportunity to move in with a substantial portion (1/4 or more) of the other members of their housing unit and shall be provided with an equivalent set of community-wide social and orientation activities. For example, a campus that otherwise moves students in over two days by opening different residence halls might instead move in half the students in each

residence hall over the two days. Or, for example, a large campus might move in all of its students over a number of days, but not schedule community-wide social and orientation activities until all students are given the opportunity to occupy their University housing.

- c. All campuses will also offer alternative move-in days for students who for religious reasons do not want to move in on either Saturday or Sunday or for whom the arrangements described above do not enable them to comply with their religious obligations. At least one of the alternative days shall be before the beginning of the weekend (i.e., "early move-in").
4. All materials/literature addressing student move-in procedures should be updated to clearly communicate that should move-in dates conflict with observances of religious holidays, accommodations will be made for affected students. The process for those affected should be described and/or a specific point of contact provided.
5. A student should not be penalized financially for not moving into University facilities on "move-in day" should the day/time conflict with observance of a religious holiday by that student.
6. The University shall immediately implement the policies set forth in Sections 3, 4, and 5 herein.