

UCLA Faculty Association



Blog for UCLA Faculty Association, 3rd quarter 2020. All audio, video, and animated gifs are eliminated. For originals, go to <http://uclafacultyassociation.blogspot.com/>

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Dickson Awards

Wednesday, July 01, 2020



Regent Dickson *From an email circulated 6-29-20 (photos added):* 2019-2020 Edward A. Dickson Emeritus Professorship Award Recipients Named The Dickson Emeritus Professorship Award is funded from a gift endowment established by the late Edward A. Dickson, Regent of the University of California, to honor outstanding research, scholarly work, teaching, and service performed by an Emeritus or Emerita Professor since retirement. Three UCLA emeriti professors have been selected to receive the 2019 – 2020 Edward A. Dickson Emeritus Professorship Award, which includes a prize of \$5,000: Professor Emeritus Christopher B. Cooper, Saul Winstein Distinguished Research Professor Kendall N. Houk, and Distinguished Research Professor Pamela Munro.



Christopher B. Cooper, Professor Emeritus of Medicine and Physiology, retired in 2016 and has had a distinguished UCLA career as a clinical research physician and a medical educator since 1993. He is one of the world's preeminent respiratory physiologists focused on chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD). He founded UCLA's Exercise Physiology Research Laboratory in 1993 and continued as its director until 2019. Since

retirement, he has continued his outstanding contributions to medicine and physiology including, directing the Pulmonary Research Laboratory, establishing the Pulmonary Function Test Reading Center at UCLA, and leading the SPIROMICS multicenter cohort. He has obtained considerable research funding including new NIH funding for a COPD-Heart Failure study and an Early COPD study. Professor Emeritus Cooper has published 52 peer-reviewed research papers, a book chapter, two letters to the editor, four review articles and one editorial since retirement. As a medical educator, Professor Cooper taught the majority of respiratory physiology to UCLA medical and dental students for well over two decades. He co-chaired the Cardiac, Respiratory and Renal Physiology Block for all first year medical students and chaired clinical skills courses for third and fourth year medical students. He has been recalled each year since his retirement to continue these educational activities. As a reflection of his international stature as an investigator and teacher, Professor Emeritus Cooper continues to be invited to address international audiences throughout the world.



Kendall N. Houk, Saul Winstein Distinguished Research Professor in Organic Chemistry, retired after 31 years at UCLA in 2016 and received the unusual extension of the Saul Winstein Endowed Chair that he held since 2009. Professor Houk's activity since retirement has been at least equal to that of most of his senior colleagues, including over 180 publications in top research journals such as *Nature*, *Science*, and the *Journal of the American Chemical Society*, additionally he is awarded research funding of approximately \$900,000-\$1,000,000 each year. Professor Houk provides about 60 invited lectures in many countries, teaches about one-half the usual teaching load of a full-time faculty member, and continues active department and university service on committees. Among his research group's major discoveries following his retirement is the development of methods to follow reactions by molecular dynamics revealing how reactions occur. His collaboration with his UCLA colleagues and investigators from around the world continue to provide major new insights into chemical reactions. Professor Houk continues to teach Modern Physical Organic Chemistry and Ethics in Chemical Research. He has served as the Organic Division Liaison, organized UCLA Research Showcases at American Chemical Society meetings, organized Winstein, Foote, and Roberts lectures, chaired or co-chaired the department's Distinguished Lecture Committee and Awards Committee, and served on its Diversity, Chemistry Graduate Program, and Mentoring committees. Since 2018, he has served on the University Faculty Research Lecture Committee. Distinguished Research Professor Houk is an internationally famous scholar and a marvelous credit to his department and to

UCLA.



Pamela Munro, Distinguished Research Professor of Linguistics is a specialist in the documentation, analysis, preservation, and revitalization of indigenous languages of the Americas. Over the course of her career, she has worked on almost 40 languages, far more than most others in the field of American Indigenous Linguistics. In the eight and a half years since her retirement in 2011, Professor Munro has continued to publish, teach, and engage in community service, at a level that would be worthy of most full-time faculty members. She has published 18 research articles, two popular articles, and one popular book and continues to work on language dictionaries and on the development of writing systems. She also participates regularly in the *Zapotexts* research group in which they transcribe, translate, and analyze Zotec documents from the early Mexican Colonial period. She has continued to teach in the Linguistics department — including the graduate field methods course for three years post retirement and an upper division course in American Indigenous Linguistics. Additionally, in every year since her retirement she has directed a graduate seminar on American Indigenous Linguistics. In 2014, Professor Munro was elected as a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science and in 2019, she taught a course at the biannual Summer Institute of the Linguistic Society of America where she was honored as the Institute's Hale Professor. She has chaired three graduate committees and served as a member on committees in the Department of History and the American Indian Studies Center. A notable aspect of her professional work has been her co-authorship with indigenous collaborators, long before this was usual. Distinguished Research Professor Munro's continued professional activities since retirement demonstrate a significant deepening in analytical scholarship, an amazing breadth of research engagement, and continuing extraordinary service to indigenous communities. She serves as a model for all linguists. Please join me in wishing them all well-deserved congratulations for outstanding contributions to their respective fields since retirement and for serving as powerful examples of intellectual and professional achievement. Sincerely, **Michael S. Levine** Chair, Dickson Emeritus Professorship Award Selection Committee Vice Chancellor, Academic Personnel

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Note: The related Panunzio awards were posted back in May:

<https://uclafacultyassociation.blogspot.com/2020/05/latest-panunzio-winners.html>

Ghost from the Past

Wednesday, July 01, 2020



If you are a really loyal reader of this blog going way back, you may dimly recall former State Senator Leland Yee who made a career out of slamming UC. It turned out later he had also made a career out of gun running and he went to prison in the "shrimp boy" scandal. There was even a back and forth on this blog between his IT person - who had screwed up Yee's website - and yours truly.

To find out about all of this history, you can start by typing "Leland Yee" in the search engine of this blog and then Googling "Leland Yee" and "shrimp boy." There was even a play at the Kirk Douglas Theater:



Why mention this sad tale now? Yours truly happened to note a short item in the [San Francisco Chronicle](#):



And so we bring the story to an end.

Coronavirus Issues Including Planning for Fall

Thursday, July 02, 2020



Yesterday afternoon, there was a Zoom program dealing with coronavirus issues at UCLA including planning for fall. We have noted in past posts on this blog that the campus is currently being used as a public park by outsiders. The adults involved are often unmasked. The children seldom are. One question that came up in the Zoom program was control of the campus. It was said there will be signage telling people entering the campus to observe masking and social distancing. How that will be enforced is less clear. There were also questions about enforcement among students who may engage in risky behavior. Toward the end, it was noted that it is possible that if recent infection trends continue in the wrong direction, the fall might revert to the current lockdown situation or that it could happen in the middle of the fall.

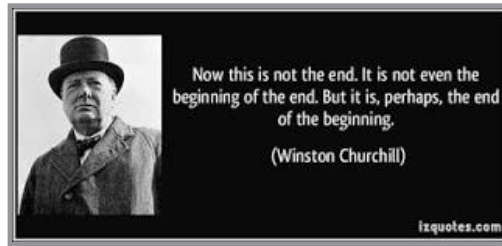
If you missed the program, it is now on YouTube:

or direct to <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x6XjNph0jiY>

Audio only at <https://archive.org/details/july-1st-2020-covid-19-planning-and-preparedness-at-ucla>.

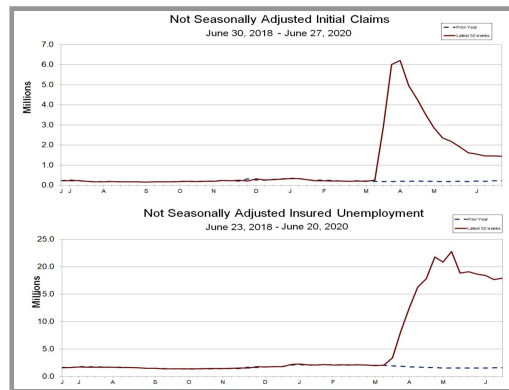
End of the Beginning - Part 8

Thursday, July 02, 2020

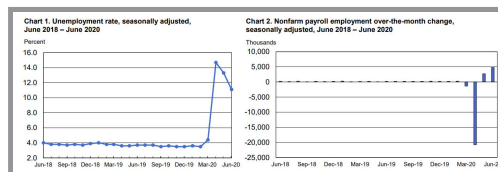


Two labor market indicators appeared today which continue to suggest a bottoming out of the coronavirus-induced recession.

New claims for unemployment insurance were 1.4 million on a seasonally-adjusted or an unadjusted basis for last week. As we have noted in past postings, these are very high numbers, although declining. Total numbers receiving unemployment have generally been falling or flat (although these numbers lag by one week). That fact suggests that people are exiting receiving unemployment insurance (presumably getting jobs) at least as fast as new people are becoming unemployed. As in prior weeks, California has a disproportionate share of individuals receiving unemployment benefits. See below for the national trends:



[Click on image to clarify.] Because of the upcoming July 4th holiday, the official unemployment rate for June was release along with data on nonfarm payroll employment. Both measures - although distorted because the collection and estimation methodology was not designed for the current situation - also suggest a bottoming out.

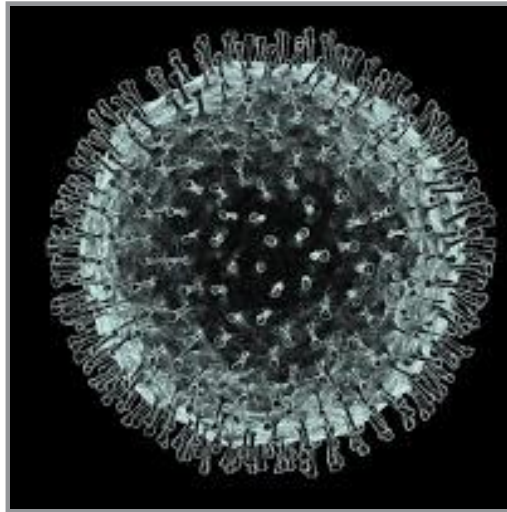


[Click on image to clarify.] The latest data on new claims and the unemployment and nonfarm payroll jobs surveys are at:

<https://www.dol.gov/ui/data.pdf> and <https://www.bls.gov/news.release/pdf/empsit.pdf>.

Online Med Interviews

Thursday, July 02, 2020



All UC Schools of Medicine to interview applicants virtually

University of California Health Tuesday, June 30, 2020

The deans of University of California Health's six medical schools announced today (June 30) that all medical school, residency and fellowship interviews for the 2020-2021 academic year will be held in a virtual format. The decision creates a consistent approach of no in-person interviews so that all applicants who advance to the interview stage have the same setting for presenting their skills and are not encumbered by COVID-19 related travel concerns.

"We want to create an equitable process for all," said Dr. Cathryn Nation, vice president of health sciences for University of California Health. "Applicants to UC medical schools and residency programs rigorously prepare academically and usually travel for in-person panel interviews. We don't want these individuals to feel their chance for success is influenced by their ability to appear in-person at this time when the risk of coronavirus transmission remains a very real concern."

The announcement comes at the start of summer so that prospective students, residents and fellows can plan and prepare appropriately. Prospective medical school students typically submit their applications through the American Medical College Application Service in the summer with some applicants starting interviews in the fall. Those who apply for residencies submit applications by October. Students typically apply for fellowships, a phase of subspecialty training immediately after completion of residency, throughout the year depending on the area of specialization.

The shift to all remote interviewing was driven by a variety of factors including:

Limitations in commercial air travel, particularly for those who do not live near major hubs; Resurgence of COVID-19, potentially complicated by seasonal influenza, which may occur as shelter in place orders are lifted and will then require reinstitution of those orders; Disrupted required clinical rotations from the spring, which may need to be scheduled well into the usual interview season for senior students, making scheduling of cross-country trips very challenging; and, The recession and growing unemployment, which may cause students and their families significant financial hardships.

"We are adapting in real-time to unprecedented circumstances that disrupt typical practices," said Dr. Carrie L. Byington, executive vice president of University of California

Health. "The shift to online interviews is consistent with our public health response to reduce the risk of viral transmission. Our goal is to support all applicants in pursuing their dreams without the additional stress related to the cost, logistics and transmission risk associated with interview travels."

This spring, UC medical schools also adapted 2020 Match Day ceremonies by moving to an online format. Match Day is when graduating medical students learn where they will serve their residencies, a critical step to become a licensed physician.

University of California Health's six medical schools - UC Davis Health, UC Riverside Health, UC San Diego Health, UCI Health, UCLA Health and UCSF Health - are all nationally ranked. UC's schools of medicine have approximately 3,500 medical students enrolled. Approximately 5,600 residents and fellows are advancing their post-graduation training in UC and affiliated hospitals.

Source: <https://www.universityofcalifornia.edu/press-room/all-uc-schools-medicine-interview-applicants-virtually>

Errata

Thursday, July 02, 2020

In a prior post on the new state budget,* we posted some tables derived from budgetary numbers. There were errors in two tables. As is often the case, haste made waste. These are corrected below for the record, although the analysis is unaffected.

Table 1: Evolution of the First Newsom Budget for 2019-20 (\$ Millions)

	Governor July 2019	LAO Nov. 2019	Governor Jan. 2020	GOVERNOR May 2020	GOVERNOR June 2020
GF reserve 7-1-2019	\$6,772	\$7,748	\$8,497	\$11,280	\$11,280
Revenue & Transfers	143,805	144,158	146,486	136,836	137,625
Expenditures	147,781	146,529	149,749	146,497	146,933
GF Surplus or deficit	-3,976	-2,371	-3,263	-9,661	-9,308
GF reserve 6-30-2020	2,796	5,378	5,234	1,619	1,972
BSA 6-30-2020	16,516	16,186	16,018	16,156	16,116
Safety Net 6-30-2020	900	900	900	900	900
Prop 98 6-30-2020	377	na	524	524	524
Total Reserves 6-30-2020	20,589	na	22,676	19,199	19,512

GF = general fund
BSA = Budget Stabilization Account ("rainy day" fund)
na = not available

Table 2: Evolution of the Second Newsom Budget for 2020-21 (\$ Millions)

	Workload Nov. 2019	LAO Jan. 2020	Governor May 2020	GOVERNOR June 2020
GF reserve 7-1-2020	\$5,378	\$5,234	\$1,619	\$1,972
Revenue & Transfers	151,367	151,635	137,417	137,719
Expenditures	148,628	153,083	133,901	133,900
GF Surplus or deficit	+2,739	-1,448	+3,516	+3,819
GF reserve 6-31-2021	8,116	3,786	5,135	5,791
BSA 6-30-2021	18,323	17,977	8,350	8,310
Safety Net 6-30-2021	900	900	450	450
Total Reserves Excluding Prop 98 6-30-2021	27,339	22,663	13,935	14,551
Prop 98 6-30-2021	na	487	0	0
Total Reserves 6-30-2021	na	22,676	13,935	14,551

GF = general fund
BSA = Budget Stabilization Account ("rainy day" fund)
na = not available

* <http://uclafacultyassociation.blogspot.com/2020/06/>.

USC's U-Turn

Friday, July 03, 2020



From the [LA Times](#): *Amid the alarming surge in coronavirus spread, USC announced it will no longer bring all undergraduates back to campus for the fall semester and will move to mainly online classes, reversing an earlier decision to welcome students back for a hybrid model.*

The decision, announced by Provost Charles Zukoski late Wednesday, came the same day Gov. Gavin Newsom announced tougher restrictions on indoor activities. Zukoski recommended that students not return to campus for the semester and instead continue their education online. "The once-in-a-century COVID-19 pandemic has altered every aspect of our lives — the way we interact, work, and socialize — and with each new permutation of the pandemic, we must find ways to thrive," Zukoski wrote in a letter to students. "Given the continuing safety restrictions and limited densities permissible on campus, our undergraduate students primarily or exclusively will be taking their courses online in the fall term," he said. "On-campus housing and activities will be limited." Only 10% to 20% of courses during the fall semester will be conducted in person and on campus. These courses include certain labs, studios and performance classes, and research studies that require hands-on work... Full story at <https://www.latimes.com/california/story/2020-07-02/usc-will-move-most-undergraduate-classes-online-cancels-reopening> As we noted in a prior post, UCLA's plans for the fall seem more contingent than solid. In fact, it was so-stated in the link we provided in an earlier post to a video and audio concerning UCLA planning. === * <http://uclafacultyassociation.blogspot.com/2020/07/coronavirus-issues-including-planning.html>*

Postponed Maybe

Saturday, July 04, 2020



Is it coming or going? From the Mercury News: *Pac-12 commissioner Larry Scott said Thursday that the conference is prepared to pivot quickly to alternate football scenarios in the event a 12-game regular season cannot start on time because of the coronavirus surge. That possibility seemingly is growing more real by the week... The Pac-12 has modeled what Scott described as “very solid scenarios” for the season, including:*

— Playing all 12 games as scheduled— A delayed start— Conference-only schedules— Moving the season to the spring“We could turn on a dime because of all the legwork we’ve put in,” Scott said, adding that other Power Five conference are having similar conversations internally... Full story at <https://www.mercurynews.com/2020/07/02/as-coronavirus-surges-pac-12-prepares-for-all-football-scenarios-including-a-spring-season/>

Alternative Ways to Read the Blog

Sunday, July 05, 2020



On a quarterly basis, we provide an alternative way to read this blog. In this format, all videos, audios, and animated gifs are omitted. Below are links to the second quarter of 2020.

Read on screen:

https://issuu.com/danieljbmitchell/docs/ucla_faculty_association_blog_2nd_quarter_2020

Read below:

or direct to <https://archive.org/details/ucla-faculty-association-blog-2nd-quarter-2020/mode/2up> (You can download a pdf from this link.)

Where in Westwood?

Sunday, July 05, 2020



Yours truly came across the photo above which shows an area in Westwood in the early 1930s. On the left, a building sign says "Westwood Village Market." On the right, a sign offers "Child Training," whatever that was. The large building at the center no longer exists. So where was this photo taken? The two photos below show Westwood from a distance and the large building can be seen - which might be a clue to where it was.



Berkeley Interview

Monday, July 06, 2020



An interesting recent interview of Berkeley Chancellor Carol Christ and Bob Jacobsen, dean of undergraduate studies at Berkeley is available on YouTube. They discuss online education and other topics related to higher education including free speech on campus. You can find it at the link below:

or direct to <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DNaOV-SCp8g>.

The closing door on the fall "reopening"

Monday, July 06, 2020



There seems to be a shifting away from fall reopening plans at various universities. Exactly what the point is of having students in dorms - even with reduced capacity - doing online courses is not clear. Here is what the latest plan from Harvard entails:

Only 40 percent of Harvard undergrads will return to campus this fall

By Deirdre Fernandes, [Boston Globe](#), July 6, 2020

Harvard University announced on Monday that it will allow only first-year students and undergraduates specifically invited for academic reasons to come to campus this fall in an effort to combat the spread of the coronavirus.

In all, only 40 percent of Harvard's undergraduates will be on campus starting in September, and all teaching will be done remotely. In the spring freshmen will return home, and seniors will come to Cambridge. Students will be housed in single-room dormitories, and most of the non-residential buildings in Harvard Yard will be off limits, the university outlined in its plans Monday.

"We have sought a path to bringing all students back as soon as conditions allow, while continuing their academic progress in the meantime and remaining a vibrant research community across our broad range of disciplines," Harvard President Lawrence Bacow, along with two deans, wrote in a message to the community. "But we also recognize that, fundamentally, there is an intrinsic incompatibility between our highly interactive, residential Harvard College experience and the social distancing needed to mitigate COVID-19 transmission."

Bacow and the deans said they have been concerned about the uptick in transmission of the virus in recent weeks.

"The recent upturn in COVID-19 cases in certain states illustrates the difficulty of making predictions, even well-informed ones, about the evolution of this virus," Bacow said in the message.

Harvard's approach to the fall is among the more restrictive in the Boston area. Most universities have laid out plans to bring most students back this upcoming school year with masks, frequent testing, smaller classrooms, and a mix of online and in-person

classes.

Harvard previously announced that many of its graduate programs will be taught remotely too.

Students can apply for waivers to be on campus if they have challenges to remote learning, including a lack of appropriate technology, limited quiet space, food and shelter insecurities, and a need to access laboratories for their senior thesis, the university said. Students who can't be on campus during the academic year will be able to take two courses at Harvard's summer school in 2021, without paying tuition...

Full story at <https://www.bostonglobe.com/2020/07/06/metro/just-40-percent-harvard-undergrads-will-return-fall/>

New UC Prez About to Be Unveiled

Monday, July 06, 2020



Screenshot above from Regents website.
[Click on image to clarify.]

Something for the new UC prez to worry about

Tuesday, July 07, 2020



No, yours truly does not have any advance knowledge about who the new UC prez will be. As noted yesterday, the Regents will unveil the name this afternoon. But the item below seems to be a major issue for any campus with international students:

US: Foreigners Can't Stay for Online Classes

Ozy, 7-7-20

Here's your degree from the school of hard knocks. U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement said yesterday it'll boot foreigners on student visas if their schools opt for online-only classes in the fall. While students could transfer to other schools with in-person instruction, they'd have to reapply for admission — and many institutions, like Harvard, are planning online-only fall sessions to slow the spread of coronavirus. Some 400,000 people have F-1 or M-1 visas affected by the policy. Also hurting will be U.S. schools, which rely heavily on \$2.5 billion in annual revenue from foreign students.

Source: <https://www.ozy.com/presidential-daily-brief/pdb-352610/pack-up-352827/>

Unnamed Steps?

Tuesday, July 07, 2020



From the Bruin: *A petition to rename Janss Steps received over 2,000 signatures as of July 6. The petition states that UCLA should rename the steps after an alumnus who changed the world for the better, rather than someone who contributed to institutional racism. Many students don't know that the Janss brothers have a history of racial discrimination, said Michael Penny, an alumnus who started the petition in June...*

Janss Investment Company, which the brothers owned at the time, developed Westwood Village and used racial covenants to ban people of color from owning properties or businesses in the area in the 1920s...

Some student signees suggested that Janss Steps should be renamed after Martin Luther King Jr., who gave a speech addressing segregation and racial injustice on the steps in 1965. Other students who supported the petition proposed Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, a former UCLA basketball player and social justice advocate...

Larry Janss, the grandson of Edwin Janss Sr., initially brushed off the idea of renaming Janss Steps when he heard about the petition, but he said he quickly became empathetic to the idea after he read an article describing why monuments honoring racist figures should be renamed. Larry Janss said he acknowledges his ancestors' racist history. However, he added he wants people to associate the steps with the social justice efforts he and his father, Edwin Janss Jr., funded with the Janss Foundation, rather than Edwin Sr. and Harold Janss' racism...

Full story at <https://dailybruin.com/2020/07/06/janss-brothers-history-of-discrimination-prompts-call-for-changing-name-of-steps>

More Rain on the Parade for Reopening

Tuesday, July 07, 2020



As we noted on this blog, CSU is going all online in the fall. Now its chancellor raises the possibility that the entire 2020-21 year at CSU will be online:

From EdSource:

Nearly all of California State University's classes may remain virtual, not only this fall but for the rest of the upcoming academic year. CSU Chancellor Tim White, during a U.S. House of Representatives subcommittee hearing on the pandemic and the future of higher education, said the decision in May to primarily move to a virtual setting for the fall term and "quite frankly the academic year was driven by health and safety issues and student progress." "A lot of people are using the past tense, 'How did you manage the pandemic?" he said, during his testimony. "This is not a two-month problem or a six-month problem. This is a 12-, 18-, 24-month, at a minimum problem." White, who has announced plans to leave his post by December, did not specify how the pandemic may affect colleges in the long-term. However, he said health officials are projecting a bump in infections this summer and later this year... Full story at <https://edsources.org/2020/csu-chancellor-says-system-could-go-virtual-for-entire-academic-year/635396>

Dr. Michael Drake is the New UC President

Tuesday, July 07, 2020



From the LA Times: *Michael V. Drake, a national champion for access and equity who previously headed Ohio State University and UC Irvine, (is) named the new president of the University of California and first Black leader in the system's 152-year history...*

Under his tenure, (OSU) boosted the number of students who are low-income, underrepresented minorities and the first in their families to attend college. Black students, however, remain underrepresented at Ohio State, accounting for 6.8% of enrolled students in a state where Black residents make up 13% of the population. That's a larger gap than at UC campuses, where Black students account for about 4% of enrollment compared with the state's proportion of Black residents at 6%.

At Ohio State, Drake also worked to lower the cost of attendance and increase financial aid — issues that loom large for UC students. He introduced a financial model that raises costs for tuition, mandatory fees, housing and dining once for incoming freshmen, then locks them in for four years. Under his tenure, Ohio State boosted financial aid to low- and moderate-income Ohioans by more than \$200 million since 2015, twice his initial target, and increased grants and scholarships.

He is also credited with helping Ohio State hit record highs in applications, graduation rates and sponsored research awards. Last year, he announced a \$4.5-billion fundraising campaign, the largest goal in the school's history.

While some faculty at both Ohio State and UC Irvine said he was not the most visible or hands-on academic leader, he was popular with students. Alexis Gomes, an incoming fifth-year Ohio State student in neuroscience, said students appreciated his initiatives to cut fees, lower textbook costs and provide all students with an iPad, Apple pencil and a notetaking app...

Full story at <https://www.latimes.com/california/story/2020-07-07/michael-v-drake-is-expected-to-be-named-uc-president-first-black-leader-in-systems-152-year-history>

Note: We will archive the audio of the special Regents meeting of today where the announcement was made when it is available.

Chancellor's Statement on New International Student Rule

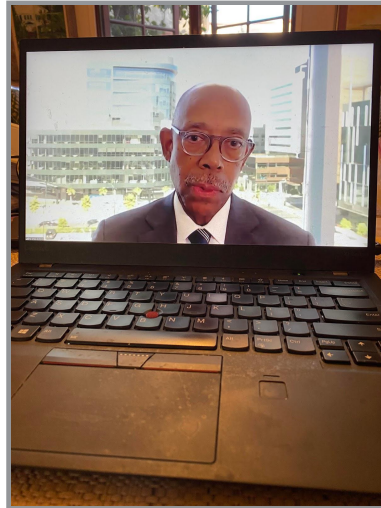
Wednesday, July 08, 2020



From an email circulated last night: Dear Bruin Community: I am very concerned by yesterday's announcement from U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) that international students cannot remain in the United States if they are exclusively attending online classes this fall. Decisions like this are contrary to our core values of collaboration, diversity and inclusion. We know that ICE's announcement is profoundly unsettling for our community, especially for our international students, and we are committed to supporting these students in any way we can. UCLA is proud that we have attracted the best minds from around the world who have helped us build a vibrant learning community, advanced vital research and strengthened essential international collaborations. This disruptive policy directive threatens to further burden our entire Bruin family during an already challenging global health crisis. We value the voices, insights and presence of every single member of the UCLA family, including those from other countries who have created an intellectual home here, who have established roots in our communities, and who greatly contribute to our campus. UCLA stands with our international students during this challenging period. We will be in touch with you through the Dashew Center and other avenues as we move forward. UCLA will work closely with UC Office of the President, which is carefully reviewing the details of this directive and will strategize with campus leadership on how to best support our international students, who are part of the rich fabric that makes UCLA a global leader in education. Sincerely, **Gene D. Block** Chancellor

Listen to the Regents Appoint a New UC Prez: 7-7-2020

Wednesday, July 08, 2020



As noted in a post yesterday, Michael Drake was appointed as the new UC president at a special Zoom meeting of the Regents. Even though it was a special, one-purpose meeting, it had a public comments section at the beginning of the open portion. Comments were made on climate change, labor relations, coronavirus, the Hawaiian telescope, affirmative action, and the new federal policy that would require international students taking online courses to return home.

After the public comments, the new appointment was announced and various Regents made complimentary remarks. Then incoming UC president Drake spoke.

You can hear the meeting at the link below:

or direct to <https://archive.org/details/regents-7-7-20-uc-prez>.

Note: What was the Drake record at Irvine? A quick perusal of news accounts from that era hit on three controversies. Of course, news accounts are more likely to pick up on things that went wrong rather than things that went right. But here are the three:

1) Hiring-Unhiring-Hiring of Chermerinsky

From California Today of New York Times: 7-7-20

... (Drake) tangled briefly but famously in 2007 with Erwin Chemerinsky, a well-known liberal law professor, after recruiting him to start the (UC-Irvine) law school and then rescinding the offer. Amid national academic furor, Dr. Drake reconsidered, Mr. Chemerinsky became the dean, the dispute blew over and the two went on to teach a civil rights class together. On Tuesday, Mr. Chemerinsky, now the dean of the law school at U.C. Berkeley, expressed delight at Dr. Drake's hiring...

Full story at <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/07/08/us/new-university-california-president->

michael-drake.html

And, from the New York Times of 9-18-07

... In a conference call with reporters yesterday, Professor Chemerinsky and Irvine's chancellor, Michael V. Drake, gave few details about what had led to their reconciliation. But it was clear that Dr. Drake had gone to considerable lengths to patch things up, flying to North Carolina and spending the better part of Sunday with Professor Chemerinsky, a member of the Duke law faculty, at his home in Durham. "I needed more comfort," Dr. Drake said. "I have developed that comfort."

Professor Chemerinsky was first offered the job in August. After weeks of discussion about his role and the mission of the new law school, which is to open in 2009, he signed a contract on Sept. 4. A week later, Dr. Drake flew to North Carolina to withdraw the offer. By Professor Chemerinsky's account, which he reaffirmed yesterday, Dr. Drake said the professor was "too politically controversial," pointing to an Aug. 16 op-ed article in The Los Angeles Times in which he criticized a plan to speed up death penalty appeals. In an interview last week, Dr. Drake said the problem was not the substance of Professor Chemerinsky's views but rather "his larger-than-life voice." Professor Chemerinsky has for decades been a prominent liberal public intellectual and litigator, and he has written scores of opinion articles taking liberal positions.

Dr. Drake denied yesterday that he had been urged to withdraw the appointment by conservative donors. "There was no pressure to withdraw the offer," he said. But he indicated that he had at least listened to some critics. "Since Professor Chemerinsky is a public figure, people have different opinions," Dr. Drake said...

Full story at <https://www.nytimes.com/2007/09/18/education/18professor.html>

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2) Irvine 11 Disruption Case

Students Convicted in Irvine 11 Case

...Even after misdemeanor convictions, Akhtar and the other UC Irvine students who disrupted a speech by the Israeli ambassador to the United States last year, felt they were the victims. That's not how the jury saw it. They were all sentenced to three years probation and ordered to complete 56 hours of community service...

The students, known as the "Irvine 11," were each charged with one misdemeanor count of conspiracy to disturb a meeting and one misdemeanor count of disturbing a meeting. Each student could have received up to six months in jail. The jury began deliberations Tuesday in a case stemming from the interruption of a February 2010 speech by Ambassador Michael Oren. The students -- many of whom belong to the Muslim Student Union on campus -- stood up, minutes apart, and yelled slogans. Their actions were described by prosecutors as a "heckler's veto" of the speech, which was attended by about 500 to 700 people. Prosecutors argued that the rules of the meeting were spelled out when the students were admonished by UCI professor Mark Petracca and UCI Chancellor Michael Drake after the first interruptions. Wagner had to prove to jurors that the students were aware of the rules, conspired to break them and had no other outlet to carry out their protest...

UC Irvine officials released the following statement after the verdicts were announced: "UC Irvine, which fully and actively supports the lawful expression of free speech, completed its disciplinary procedures in this matter last year and considered those sanctions sufficient. We nurture a campus climate that promotes robust debate and welcomes different points of view." The school revoked the Muslim Student Union's charter for a quarter and placed it on two years of probation...

Full story at <https://www.nbclosangeles.com/news/local/verdicts-in-irvine-11-case/2104992/>

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3) Inherited Scrambled Eggs Fertility Scandal

From the LA Times: 1-20-06

When revelations surfaced a decade ago that fertility doctors at UCI Medical Center had stolen eggs and embryos from patients, the university vowed to find the women who may have been victims. But UC Irvine acknowledged this week that it failed to contact at least 20 couples, some of whom have learned only in recent years that their fertilized embryos produced children born to other women more than 15 years ago. "I have children, and I don't know where they're at," said Rosalinda Elison, who learned in 2002 that her eggs and embryos had been stolen and implanted in another woman, who gave birth to twins. "I feel so cheated and so betrayed."

Lawyers are scheduled to meet today to discuss a possible settlement. The meeting will follow a recent flurry of letters sent by attorneys for the former patients to UC Regents and university attorneys, accusing them of stalling...

Full story at <https://www.latimes.com/archives/la-xpm-2006-jan-20-me-uci20-story.html>

Lawsuit Challenges New Rule for International Students

Wednesday, July 08, 2020



We earlier posted the statement of Chancellor Block concerning the new federal rule requiring international students taking online courses to return home. There is now a lawsuit from Harvard and MIT challenging the rule. It seems likely that UC will join the suit in some fashion.

From the [Boston Globe](#):

The leaders of Harvard University and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology are now asking the federal courts to block the Trump administration's ban on international students from being in the United States to attend the Cambridge institutions because most classes will be held online this fall.

In a lawsuit filed Wednesday in US District Court in Boston, the universities are seeking a temporary restraining order that would put the Immigration and Customs Enforcement policy on hold for 14 days. In court papers, the universities said they relied on the DHS policy from March that allowed foreign students in the US to remain and to allow new students to arrive this fall. But the Trump administration issued new rules Monday banning foreign students if classes are being held mostly online.

"If allowed to stand, ICE's policy would bar hundreds of thousands of international students at American universities from the United States in the midst of their undergraduate or graduate studies," the schools wrote in the court papers. "ICE's decision reflects a naked effort by the federal government to force universities to reopen all in-person classes notwithstanding their informed judgment that it is neither safe nor advisable to do so. The effect — perhaps even the goal — is to create chaos for schools and international students alike."

The universities have asked the federal court to schedule a hearing on their request Wednesday while they push for the courts to permanently block the order from taking effect...

Full story at <https://www.bostonglobe.com/2020/07/08/metro/harvard-mit-ask-federal-court-block-trump-administration-ban-foreign-students-campus/>

LeConte departing from Berkeley, but not UCLA

Wednesday, July 08, 2020



When you enter UCLA from Westwood, you encounter the name LeConte, although with a space after the "Le." The street was named after two brothers associated with Berkeley. As we have noted in prior posts,* Berkeley is in the process of changing things named after the LeConte brothers:

From SFGATE: *The (UC-Berkeley) Building Name Review Committee is reviewing proposals to remove the names of Joseph and John LeConte... from campus. The renaming of LeConte Hall seems almost a foregone conclusion; the faculty of the Department of Physics already overwhelmingly voted in favor of removing the name in mid-June. The LeConte brothers grew up on a plantation with 200 enslaved individuals and, when the Civil War broke out, they used their scientific acumen to help the Confederacy manufacture gunpowder.*

After the war, Joseph LeConte used his platform as a respected natural scientist to advocate for white supremacy. He argued Black people were inherently inferior and called "the sudden enfranchisement of the negro ... the greatest political crime ever committed." In his work, he fought for what he perceived as racial purity. "I regard the light-haired blue-eyed Teutonic and the negro as the extreme types, and their mixture as producing the worst effect," he once wrote. "... It seems probable then that the mixture of extreme races produces an inferior result." The LeConte name was already removed from a Berkeley elementary school in 2018...

Full story at <https://www.sfgate.com/bayarea/article/UC-Berkeley-may-rename-halls-15391117.php>

Of course, Le Conte Avenue (or LeConte Avenue - depending on which street sign you look at) is not part of the UCLA campus and it would be up to the City of LA to change the name which would inconvenience - and possibly raise objections from - homeowners and businesses on that street.

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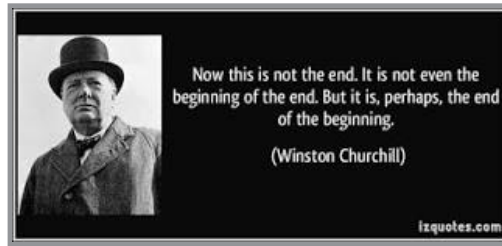
*(2015) <http://uclafacultyassociation.blogspot.com/2015/07/uh-oh-street-name-coming.html> and (2017) <http://uclafacultyassociation.blogspot.com/2017/11/coming-soon-to-westwood.html>.

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UPDATE: NWWNC votes to rename Le Conte Avenue, citing namesake's racist past
<https://dailybruin.com/2020/07/06/nwwnc-votes-to-rename-le-conte-avenue-citing-namesakes-racist-past>

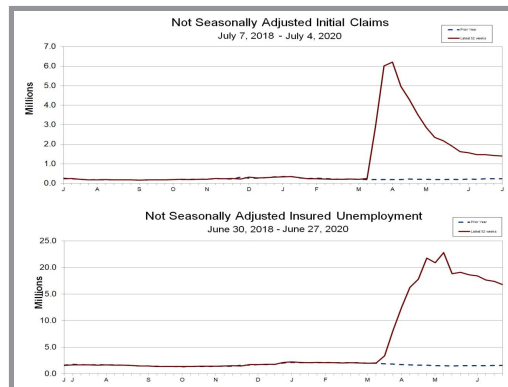
End of the Beginning - Part 9

Thursday, July 09, 2020



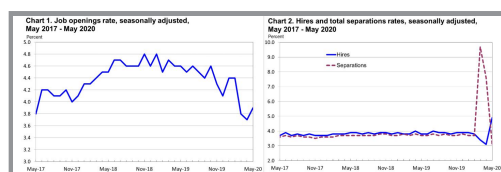
We continue our regular labor market analysis of new weekly claims for unemployment insurance. As the chart below shows, on a national basis new claims remained remarkably high, but lower than at the earlier peak, through the week ended July 4th. In absolute amounts, new claims were 1.4 million, seasonally adjusted or unadjusted, about the same level as the prior week.

The total number of recipients of unemployment benefits continues to decline, which suggests more people were getting jobs than losing them. California remains with a disproportionately high share of unemployment benefits recipients.



[Click on image to clarify.] The latest data on unemployment insurance claims are at <https://www.dol.gov/ui/data.pdf>.

A separate "JOLTS" survey - which is much lagged - shows that the job openings rate (vacancy rate) began to rise in May and new hires exceeded terminations at that time. See below. In short, both surveys indicate that there began to be a turnaround in May. Just a reminder, however, that in absolute terms, the situation looks very bad. And more recent reversals of opening up policies around the country in response to health data could produce a stall at current levels.



[Click on image to clarify.]

The latest JOLTS data are at <https://www.bls.gov/news.release/pdf/jolts.pdf>.

UC Sues Trump Administration Over New International Student Rules

Thursday, July 09, 2020



From [CalMatters/WhatMatters](#):

UC to sue Trump administration over international student policy

The University of California will sue the Trump administration over new federal visa guidelines that would force international students to leave the U.S. if they're only enrolled in online classes, the system's governing board said Wednesday. The decision comes two days after Immigrations and Customs Enforcement announced a reversal of its March policy allowing international students to take all online classes during the spring and summer as the coronavirus pandemic upended in-person classes... Around 40,000 of California's more than 160,000 international students attend UC.

UC Board of Regents Chair John A. Perez: "The University of California's legacy and leadership would not be the same without the international students and faculty who have come to this institution. To UC's international students, I say: "We support you and regret the additional chaos ICE's action has caused."

Source: <https://us11.campaign-archive.com/?e=cd8ca92ba1&u=5f4af3af825368013c58e4547&id=7feba22221> (Scroll down.)

From [CalMatters](#): ...*UC's lawsuit will argue that ICE failed to follow the federal Administrative Procedure Act when it introduced the new policy, a statement from the university said. Pérez said the university was also looking at ways to provide more in-person educational opportunities for international students. It's not the first time UC has sued the federal government over immigration policy: The university won a major court victory last month when the Supreme Court struck down the Trump administration's attempt to end the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program, or DACA...*

Full story at <https://calmatters.org/education/higher-education/college-beat-higher->

[education/2020/07/uc-sue-trump-administration-international-student-visa/](#)

More U-Turns

Thursday, July 09, 2020



More institutions in California are in retreat for the fall term:

Online-Only Fall for Scripps and Pomona

Emma Whitford, July 9, 2020, [Inside Higher Ed](#)

As coronavirus case numbers climb in California, Scripps College and Pomona College announced Wednesday they would close their campuses and conduct instruction completely online in the fall.

In her announcement, Scripps president Lara Tiedens said the college had been planning to reopen campus to students this fall before the pandemic worsened in the state.

“As we planned for the return to campus, we have continued to monitor the current public health situation in Los Angeles County, which over the last couple of weeks has worsened dramatically,” the announcement read.

Pomona also reversed its plans, citing the rising case counts in Claremont.

“Here in the nation’s most populous county, the virus is taking off among young people, who account for half of the new cases, and the numbers bring growing concerns about more spread to the most vulnerable,” wrote G. Gabrielle Starr, Pomona’s president, and Samuel D. Glick, chair of the college’s Board of Trustees.

The decisions to go ahead with an online-only semester are complicated by the recent Department of Homeland Security rule that prohibits international students from remaining in the United States if their colleges are online only. In its announcement, Pomona acknowledged this complication and said it will reach out to affected students in the coming days.

Source: <https://www.insidehighered.com/quicktakes/2020/07/09/online-only-fall-scripps-and-pomona>

Frat Party: The Sequel

Friday, July 10, 2020



Back on May 19th, we posted about a fraternity party at UC-Berkeley at which standards of social distancing, etc., were clearly not being observed.*

Now comes this item from the [LA Times](#):

Coronavirus outbreak tied to fraternity parties imperils fall semester at UC Berkeley

Rong-Gong Lin, 7-9-20

*An outbreak of coronavirus infections tied to parties connected to fraternities at UC Berkeley is imperiling the prospect of in-person fall semester classes, university officials warned. In just one week, there have been 47 COVID-19 cases confirmed by the University Health Services system, the school said in a letter to the campus community. **Most of the 47 new cases “stem from a series of recent parties connected to the CalGreek system, which included students both within the CalGreek community and others, and led to some secondary spread within households and within other smaller gatherings,”** said the letter written by Anna Harte, medical director of the campus’ health clinic, and Guy Nicolette, an assistant vice chancellor.*

“Generally, these infections are directly related to social events where students have not followed basic safety measures such as physical distancing, wearing face coverings, limiting event size, and gathering outside,” the letter said. The outbreak underscores how California’s new coronavirus surge is being fueled by much younger people who are getting back to summer social events and contracting COVID-19.

Gov. Gavin Newsom said this week that younger people who think “they are invincible” are falling ill nevertheless. Adults between 18 and 49 have made up 6.4% of California’s coronavirus-related deaths.

Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti underscored that point Wednesday, saying “more than 50% of the people who are testing positive in Los Angeles County are between 18 and 40 years of age.” Adults 18 to 40 make up 35% of L.A. County’s population.

While “most young people are doing the right thing,” he said, “it’s clear that a lot of them are not.”

“This isn’t complicated: Do not get together with someone who’s not in your household,” he said. “These weeks are absolutely critical: Critical to whether schools open, whether

our economy and our economic recovery path continues. These weeks are critical for saving lives.”

More than 100 residents of Los Angeles County between the ages of 18 and 40 have died from the coronavirus. “While the rate of death is significantly less for younger people, unfortunately, younger people die pretty much almost every day,” Barbara Ferrer, the director of public health for L.A. County, said Thursday. “And some of the people who are dying don’t have any underlying health conditions, either.”

About 7% of the people who have died in L.A. County with a coronavirus infection had no underlying health conditions. Younger adults can also be a significant spread of the coronavirus to more vulnerable people. A study published by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention found that in Japan, it was most often adults in their 20s or 30s — infected but not showing signs of illness — who were responsible for spreading the coronavirus among 61 clusters of illness.

“As a young person, you inadvertently unknowingly could be infecting people, even in your age cohort, who then go on and infect somebody else who’s at risk and has a terrible outcome and actually may even die,” Ferrer said. Even those who do survive COVID-19 can suffer from months of complications, Ferrer added. A growing number of campuses are rethinking fall on-campus plans as the coronavirus has surged again...

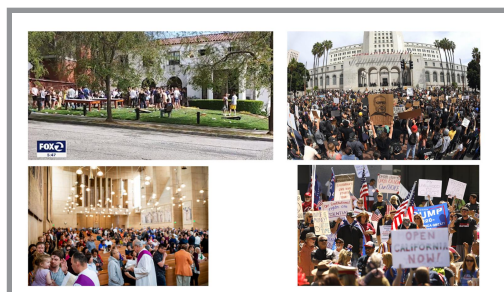
Full story at <https://www.latimes.com/california/story/2020-07-09/coronavirus-outbreak-tied-to-fraternity-parties-at-uc-berkeley-imperils-fall-semester>

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* <http://uclafacultyassociation.blogspot.com/2020/05/recent-berkeley-frat-party.html>.

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Comment: Viruses don’t care whether you are just looking to have a good time such as a frat party, whether you are participating in a demonstration for some cause, whether you are participating in a religious ceremony, or any other human concern. They just spread, if enabled. Folks, as the mayor said, this is not complicated.



The Forgotten Santa Cruz Grad Student/TA Strike

Friday, July 10, 2020



It may be hard to remember but there was a grad student/TA strike at Santa Cruz that was eclipsed by the coronavirus crisis.

From the [Santa Cruz Sentinel](#): *Dozens of graduate-student workers fired for engaging in a wildcat strike at UC Santa Cruz have a path to reinstatement this fall under a deal reached between the campus and the students' union. The UAW 2865 union committed to drop an unfair labor practice charge against UCSC as part of the settlement, which also includes an agreement to shift student-conduct sanctions to employee warning letters for teaching assistants who deleted grades as part of a strike.*

Warning letters issued to 245 students for initially refusing to submit grades can also be removed from students' files under the deal, at least for the majority of students who eventually submitted the grades.

"As the campus continues to prepare for fall quarter, we can close some of the chapters of a turbulent past academic year," UCSC Chancellor Cynthia Larive and campus provost Lori Kletzer wrote in a campus message Thursday. The two campus leaders acknowledged that some claims resulting from the wildcat strike remain unsettled, calling the agreement "a small yet important step for our community, one we believe sets us up for a stronger future together."

Veronica Hamilton, UCSC's UAW 2865 unit chair and a psychology doctoral student, is among at least 75 students who were dismissed or barred from teaching positions for alleged wildcat strike activity. In an interview Thursday, Hamilton said polling found support for the deal from a majority of union members caught up in discipline related to the strike. But the settlement doesn't extend as far as she would have hoped.

"The deal ensures some things that we do need, but it is such an incredibly small step," Hamilton said. "It's hard to feel proud of this deal when it doesn't include things like full reinstatement and withdrawing of all discipline."

According to Hamilton, the path to reinstatement divides fired graduate students into two groups. About 35 students who were barred from appointments they had yet to receive are now eligible for reinstatement, she said. A larger group of more than 40 students that were dismissed from spring appointments, herself included, will still need to go through an expedited arbitration, she said.

"They should have reinstated everybody," Hamilton said. "And that is something that we

asked for and demanded multiple times, and they were sort of unrelenting.”

A total of 75 students have been involved in student-conduct proceedings for alleged deletion of grades as part of the wildcat strike, according to a campus spokesperson...

Full story at <https://www.santacruzsentinel.com/2020/07/09/fired-ucsc-graduate-students-given-path-to-reinstatement-under-union-deal/>

Note: This article is unclear. If there is expedited arbitration, what will the arbitrator consider? What is to be determined? Based on what criteria? Yours truly is certainly not opposed to ambiguity as a dispute resolution feature. Indeed, he has advocated it.* But for arbitration to work, the arbitrator needs some criteria, however vague, to hang a decision on.

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* <http://uclafacultyassociation.blogspot.com/2020/03/have-you-forgotten-grad-student-strike.html>.

Conference-only

Saturday, July 11, 2020



Pac-12 News Release: The Pac-12 CEO Group announced today that the fall season for several Pac-12 sports, including football, men's and women's soccer and women's volleyball, would schedule Conference-only games, and that it is delaying the start of mandatory athletic activities, until a series of health and safety indicators, which have recently trended in a negative direction, provided sufficient positive data to enable a move to a second phase of return-to-play activities.

The CEO Group made clear that it hopes to play football and all other fall sports provided that it can meet the health and safety needs of its student-athletes and obtain appropriate permissions from state and local health authorities. Today's decision will result in the start dates for the impacted sports being delayed. The decision is effective immediately across all Pac-12 member universities and was made following a meeting of the Pac-12 CEO Group (Friday)...

Full release at <https://pac-12.com/article/2020/07/10/pac-12-ceo-group-announces-decision-schedule-conference-only-play-several-fall>

Note (from the release): The Conference comprises 12 leading U.S. universities - the University of Arizona, Arizona State University, the **University of California, Berkeley**, the **University of California at [sic] Los Angeles (UCLA)**, the University of Colorado, the University of Oregon, Oregon State University, Stanford University, the University of Southern California, the University of Utah, the University of Washington and Washington State University.

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From CBS Sports: The Pac-12 Conference will move to a modified, conference-only football schedule for the fall, with an announcement regarding 2020 college football season schedules to come no later than July 31. The news comes one day after the Big Ten announced its own conference-only schedule.

The conference will also delay the start of mandatory athletic activities "until a series of health and safety indicators, which have recently trended in a negative direction, provided sufficient positive data to enable a move to a second phase of return-to-play activities." Athletes who choose not to participate due to concerns about COVID-19 will continue to have their scholarships honored by and will remain in good standing with their team... Full source at <https://www.cbssports.com/college-football/news/pac-12-follows-big-tens-lead-moves-to-conference-only-college-football-schedule-for-2020-season/>

UPDATE: *Pac-12 Commissioner Larry Scott has tested positive for COVID-19. The 55-year-old tested positive late this week after experiencing flu-like symptoms and is self quarantining at the direction of his doctor, according to a statement by the conference. Scott is continuing to carry on his duties as commissioner remotely...*

Full story at <https://www.sfgate.com/sports/article/The-Latest-Red-Sox-Jays-set-for-exhibition-15399431.php>

UC's "Hybrid" Fall

Saturday, July 11, 2020



Hybrids are interesting as experiments. And so far, that is what is happening in the fall at UC. From the [Sacramento Bee](#):

Open dorms, online classes: How University of California campuses are opening this fall

MACKENZIE HAWKINS,
JULY 11, 2020, Capital Alert

University of California campuses will offer mostly online instruction this fall, but each school has the power to set its own rules and at least two of them are already revising early plans to account for new coronavirus outbreaks.

Some schools plan to offer 30% of instruction in person, while others intend to limit on-site coursework to laboratory and studio classes. Some are prioritizing incoming freshmen for campus housing while others plan to reserve rooms for students with special circumstances, including financial need.

As the pandemic's trajectory continues to change, university administrators warn campuses may revert to reduced operations even after the fall semester begins.

At least two schools — UC Berkeley and UC Merced — are already reevaluating their plans in light of recent COVID-19 developments. At Cal, that's because frat parties triggered an outbreak that more than doubled the total number of infections tied to Berkeley's campus, officials said on Wednesday.

The UC system in May approved guidelines for campus reopening and committed to continuing education this fall. In order to welcome students back to campus, individual campus have to meet some systemwide standards, including plans for contact tracing, testing, quarantine and isolation. Beyond that, operations are up to individual administrators' discretion.

"Let me be very clear that every campus will be open and offering instruction so that all UC students can continue to make progress toward earning their degree," then-UC President Janet Napolitano told the Board of Regents on May 20. "The question will be: 'How much of that instruction will be in-person versus how much is done remotely?'"

UC BERKELEY

Cal students are expected to take the majority of their classes online. All large lectures

are set to run remotely and the university intends to offer limited in-person instruction — with analogous online options — for those who wish to return to campus.

The university plans to house up to 6,500 students — out of 30,000 total undergraduates — in residence halls and prioritize those who have already signed housing contracts, receive significant financial aid, have disabilities or participate in athletics programs.

That may all change in light of a new wave of cases on campus. UC Berkeley reported 47 new cases this week. Until then, the campus had seen just 23 cases, according to the college.

“Generally, these infections are directly related to social events where students have not followed basic safety measures,” UC Berkeley University Health Services Medical Director Anna Harte and Assistant Vice Chancellor Guy Nicolette said in a statement. “However, at the rate we are seeing increases in cases, it’s becoming harder to imagine bringing our campus community back in the way we are envisioning,” they said.

UC DAVIS

Davis similarly plans to follow a hybrid model, offering both remote and in-person instruction. In-person courses will definitely include those with live performance and hands-on learning that cannot occur remotely and may include others depending on health guidelines and instructor preference.

Officials added that the campus is “prepared to return to the current state of reduced on-site operations at any time.” UC Davis is located in Yolo County, where officials on Wednesday reported that 0% of staffed ICU beds are available.

UC IRVINE

Most Anteaters will learn from their computers this fall. UC Irvine plans to offer in-person instruction only for “specialized upper-division labs, specific clinical and experiential courses, and some design courses in Engineering.” Administrators hope to gradually increase in-person offerings in winter and spring quarters, health restrictions permitting.

UC Irvine committed to housing as many undergraduates as possible in modified single and double rooms. Administrators are also planning for in-person activities and extracurriculars “to the extent possible.”

UCLA

UCLA will offer 15 to 20% of courses on site or in an on site and remote hybrid format this fall. Those courses will include laboratory, performing arts and clinical health classes, among others.

The university will hold a housing lottery that aims to house as many first-year students as possible and will prioritize financial need, students’ distance from campus and enrollment preferences for upperclassmen who wish to participate in campus activities.

UC MERCED

UC Merced on June 12 announced that it aims to offer 20 to 30% of overall instruction in person through a combination of remote, in-person and hybrid delivery modes. But university administrators on July 8 revised that plan, citing a worsening local outbreak.

“We believe today that a minimum number of classes — only those that by their nature

are hands-on — should be delivered in person, and that campus residency should be offered to students for whom UC Merced is the best or only place to live while pursuing their education,” Chief Resilience Officer Andrew Boyd wrote in a July 8 email to faculty and staff.

UC RIVERSIDE

While all fall classes will have a remote component, individual professors can propose in-person classes based on university guidelines. UC Riverside will prioritize graduate courses and undergraduate laboratory and studio courses in its selection process.

All students can apply to live in campus residences, but fall housing will be lower density than normal. Administrators are still determining the total number of students who can live on campus.

UC SANTA CRUZ

Similar to other campuses, UC Santa Cruz will offer mostly remote instruction in fall 2020 with limited in-person instruction for courses that cannot be completed online, such as studios and labs. Professors may need to complete in-person sessions prior to Thanksgiving break to avoid outbreaks associated with holiday travel.

Campus housing will be available to “various continuing student populations and new transfer students” as well as other students, space permitting. All rooms will be reconfigured to singles and doubles to reduce residential density.

UC SANTA BARBARA

In line with several of its peers, UC Santa Barbara will offer mostly remote instruction with some in-person and hybrid courses. All students have the option to take all of their classes online, and administrators anticipate that any course with more than 50 students will be delivered remotely.

As for campus housing, all rooms will house no more than two occupants, with the possibility of reducing that number to one. Like UCLA, UC Santa Barbara’s housing lottery will prioritize “students in their first year on campus and those with special circumstances.”

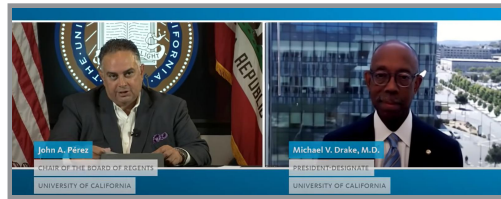
UC SAN DIEGO

UC San Diego courses will be offered in four formats — in-person only, in-person, hybrid and remote — and approximately 30% of courses will be taught in person.

Like other universities, UC San Diego plans to eliminate triple-occupancy rooms to reduce housing density. Students who are eligible for a two-year-housing guarantee — including all first-year incoming freshmen and incoming transfer students — will be offered housing if they meet university deadlines.

Pérez Interviews the New UC Prez

Sunday, July 12, 2020



There is an interesting interview of incoming UC prez Michael Drake by Regent Chair John Pérez of 7-10-20 available on YouTube at the link below:

or direct to:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LqHdoQUJTbQ>

And moving into the winter...

Monday, July 13, 2020



They don't look socially distanced. *From an email from the American Economic Association:*

Given recent events, continued uncertainties, current meeting/travel restrictions related to the potential spread of COVID-19, and the rising number of cases, we regret to announce that the Association's leadership has made the difficult decision not to hold the 2021 ASSA Annual Meeting in person. The safety risks posed by the COVID-19 pandemic has made it impossible to plan, prepare for, and hold an in-person event as expected.

While not holding an in-person meeting will diminish the reunions, receptions, and other networking opportunities that occur in a face to face setting, the AEA is excited to announce that preparations are underway for a **VIRTUAL 2021 AEA/ASSA Annual Meeting**. Session and paper submissions have been strong and we are currently curating a program that will be both interesting and stimulating – especially in the times through which we are living. The virtual meeting will be held on **January 3 – 5, 2021** as planned and will include the usual offering of over 500 scientific sessions. Registration will open in September and the registration fee will be set to cover the costs of holding the virtual meeting...

Note: It seems likely that other associations in other disciplines with winter conferences will be doing the same. In fact, the conference above involves several different associations that meet in coordination.

And a thought for the fall:

" The college campus has emerged as the latest setting for the confusion, fear, and politics of the US coronavirus outbreak. Filled with close living in dorms, young people who enjoy partying, and older at-risk staff, colleges pose a risk comparable to past disease outbreaks on cruise ships and in prisons..."

<https://www.buzzfeednews.com/article/danvergano/coronavirus-college-campus-dorms-parties-classrooms>

A Digital Swap Meet for UCLA International Students?

Monday, July 13, 2020



Under new federal rules - under litigation - international students have to take some in-person courses to stay in the U.S. But there won't be many such courses. A digital solution is being developed. From The Lily:

Sumana Kaluvai, 22, who graduated from UCLA last year, also heard the news on Monday. She realized thousands of international students at UCLA and throughout the country had just had their lives upended: They were all facing potential deportation.

Kaluvai now works at a biotech company, but still maintains a Facebook group for international students to help navigate school and visa logistics. Caught in green card limbo for years, she attended her final year at UCLA on a student visa despite having spent most of her life in America. Her inbox blew up with questions from students and parents about what to do in the fall.

She had no answers.

After several hours, she thought about her experience at UCLA and what she and her friends would do if they absolutely needed to take a class within a certain quarter or as a graduation requirement.

"We would ask around to see if any of our friends had a spot that they didn't need. ... It used to be dire circumstances. And this is the worst version of that, so I decided, why don't we do the same thing?" Kaluvai said.

She made a Google doc to connect international students to American students to see if they could swap classes — an online class for an in-person lab class or workshop.

"Just as a temporary fix. This is not the end solution," Kaluvai said.

She started the document at 9 p.m. on Monday. When she woke up on Tuesday, it had "blown up," and 24 hours later, it had over one million views.

Within a couple of days, she teamed up with other groups like Community Equity and

San Jose Strong, who helped her spread the word.

Soon the lists got swamped with traffic, including nasty comments and harassment by trolls. The group leaders locked the documents and are instead building out a website to connect people...

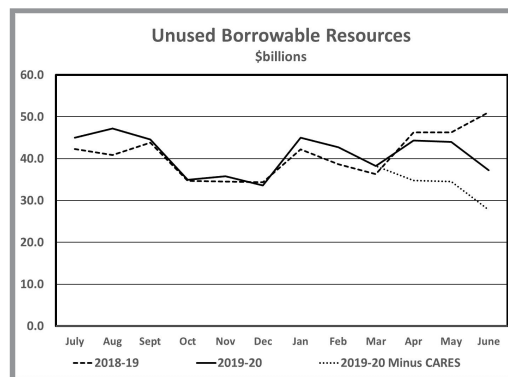
Full story at <https://www.thelily.com/class-swaps-could-save-international-students-from-deportation-this-woman-made-it-happen-with-a-google-doc/>

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Note: As noted above, there aren't many in-person courses in the fall listings and most of those are special purpose courses which a random international student probably wouldn't be eligible to take. UCLA could produce some kind of general course - perhaps held in an outdoor facility with plenty of room for social distancing - in which international students could enroll.

The Cash Cushion

Tuesday, July 14, 2020



It may be hard to find sources of comfort nowadays. Perhaps the last place one would expect to look for comfort would be in California's cash monthly statements of the state controller. First, a little history. After the 2008-09 Great Recession officially ended, the state soon ran out of cash. During the summer of 2009, it issued IOUs (registered warrants) as payments for certain liabilities that came due. This time, however, the state has built up a substantial cash cushion. That cushion consists of more than the official "rainy day" fund and the other reserve funds associated with the state's General Fund. There are also accounts outside the General Fund that can be a source of internal borrowing.

As the chart above shows, so-called unused borrowable resources - the amount of remaining available cash from those outside accounts and from the official reserves, had totaled over \$51 billion at the end of 2018-19 (thus at the beginning of 2019-20). Until the coronavirus crisis in March 2020, unused borrowable resources in 2019-20 had generally been at or above levels in the prior year. (There are fluctuations month-to-month depending on the timing of receipts and spending during the year.)

Beginning in March 2020, there was a drain on the general fund caused by spending to deal with the crisis, reduced revenue from taxes as economic activity fell, and a postponement of the due date for state income taxes from April to July. On the other hand, the state received an emergency payment under the federal CARES Act of \$9.53 billion. So, by the end of the 2019-20 fiscal year, the state still had unused borrowable resources of over \$37 billion (down from the starting \$51+ billion). Even without the federal CARES Act funding, the state would have had \$27.7 billion at the end of June 2020 (the end of fiscal 2019-20) in unused borrowable resources.

It is unclear at this point what, if any, additional federal receipts may arrive. But, on the plus side, there will be postponed receipts as postponed income taxes are filed this month. We won't know what those receipts will be in total until August.

Of course, you can't drain your cash reserves and engage in internal borrowing indefinitely. And if you fill up accounts outside the General Fund with IOUs instead of cash, those outside accounts will not be able to fund whatever activities they are intended to provide. There is much uncertainty about the course of the economy, the course of the coronavirus, the politics of the federal government, the possibility of a vaccine, etc.

However, the state was in a better position to undergo the coronavirus crisis than it was the Great Recession of 2008.

The future lies ahead.

The June 2020 statement of the controller, and other monthly cash statements, are at: https://sco.ca.gov/ard_state_cash.html

U-Turn on International Student/Online Rule

Tuesday, July 14, 2020



From the LA Times: *Facing eight federal lawsuits and opposition from hundreds of universities, the Trump administration on Tuesday rescinded a rule that would have required international students to transfer or leave the country if their schools held classes entirely online because of the pandemic. The decision was announced at the start of a hearing in a federal lawsuit in Boston brought by Harvard University and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. U.S. District Judge Allison Burroughs said federal immigration authorities agreed to pull the July 6 directive and “return to the status quo.”*

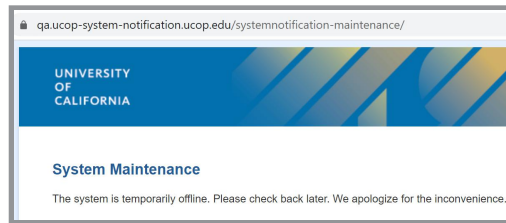
A lawyer representing the Department of Homeland Security and U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement said only that the judge’s characterization was correct.

The announcement brings relief to thousands of foreign students who had been at risk of being deported from the country, along with hundreds of universities that were scrambling to reassess their plans for the fall in light of the policy...

Full story at <https://www.latimes.com/world-nation/story/2020-07-14/trump-administration-rescinds-rule-on-foreign-students>

The Problem With Online Education - Illustrated

Wednesday, July 15, 2020



U-Turn on International Student/Online Rule - Part 2

Thursday, July 16, 2020



It took a bit of time for yours truly to locate this official UC response to the federal U-turn on international students and online education. As noted yesterday, the UCOP website was down when he checked. An interesting point is that the law firm which handled the matter for UC did it on a *pro bono* basis. In any case, for the record:

UC statement on Department of Homeland Security reversal of international student visa order

Tuesday, July 14, 2020

University of California Board of Regents Chair John A. Pérez and President Janet Napolitano issued the following joint statement today (July 14) on the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's decision to rescind a directive that would have forced international students to leave the country if their schools held all classes online due to COVID-19:

This sudden reversal by ICE is a win for common sense and for public health. Revoking the visas of international students in the midst of a pandemic would have put students' futures, their communities' ake decisions about campus operations that are guided by public health experts — not by a hastily drafted health, and the U.S. economy in further jeopardy. College and university leaders must be allowed to m, arbitrary and mean-spirited policy.

UC will continue putting our students' health and safety first — and we will be keeping a watchful eye on what the administration might propose next should we need to step in again.

UC greatly appreciates the pro bono work of Crowell & Moring on this matter. Crowell & Moring has been the University's long-time partner on a number of legal issues and has our complete confidence in handling complex and significant matters such as this one.

Source: <https://www.universityofcalifornia.edu/press-room/uc-statement-department-homeland-security-reversal-international-student-visa-order>

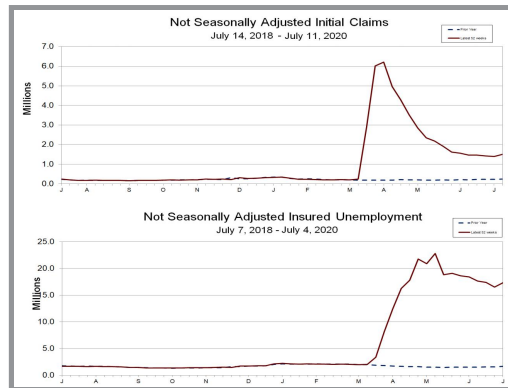
Stall Warning

Thursday, July 16, 2020



The latest data on new weekly claims for unemployment insurance suggest a stall in the recovery. On a seasonally-adjusted basis, 1.3 million people filed new claims last week, essentially the same number as the week before. Without adjustment, the number for last week was 1.5 million, up from 1.4 million a week earlier.

Estimates of the total number of folks actually receiving benefits lag by a week. For the week ending July 4th, there was an uptick in recipients (so more people entered the system than left). Seasonally-adjusted data show a decrease. Of course, the data used for seasonal adjustment are based on normal historical trends and we are not in a normal period because of the coronavirus crisis. In any event, those hoping for a V-shaped recovery - this particular set of indicators suggest - are in for a disappointment. We will see as the summer quarter progresses.



[Click on image to clarify and enlarge.] Latest data: <https://www.dol.gov/ui/data.pdf>.

Demographics of Latest UC & UCLA Admissions

Thursday, July 16, 2020

University of California CALIFORNIA FRESHMAN Admissions by Campus and Race/Ethnicity Fall 2018, 2019 and 2020						
	Number of Admits					
	2018	% of Total	2019	% of Total	2020	% of Total
Universitywide (unduplicated counts)						
African American	3,452	5%	3,414	5%	3,987	5%
American Indian	378	1%	337	0%	363	0%
Chicano/Latino	23,524	33%	24,594	34%	28,662	36%
Pacific Islander	222	0%	202	0%	213	0%
URG Sub-total	27,576	39%	28,547	40%	33,225	42%
Asian American	25,404	36%	25,371	35%	27,771	35%
White	15,735	22%	15,734	22%	16,438	21%
Declined to State	2,371	3%	2,013	3%	2,519	3%
Total Universitywide	71,086	100%	71,665	100%	79,953	100%

University of California CALIFORNIA COMMUNITY COLLEGE TRANSFER Admissions by Campus and Race/Ethnicity Fall 2018, 2019 and 2020						
	Number of Admits					
	2018	% of Total	2019	% of Total	2020	% of Total
Universitywide (unduplicated counts)						
African American	1,306	6%	1,290	5%	1,402	6%
American Indian	166	1%	159	1%	172	1%
Chicano/Latino	7,416	32%	7,358	31%	7,985	32%
Pacific Islander	80	0%	77	0%	81	0%
URG Sub-total	8,968	38%	8,884	38%	9,640	39%
Asian American	6,378	27%	6,687	28%	7,156	29%
White	7,283	31%	7,314	31%	7,173	29%
Declined to State	668	3%	633	3%	974	4%
Domestic Sub-Total	23,298	100%	23,518	100%	24,943	100%
International	3,284		3,182		3,131	
Total Universitywide	26,582		26,700		28,074	

=====UCLA

University of California CALIFORNIA FRESHMAN Admissions by Campus and Race/Ethnicity Fall 2018, 2019 and 2020						
	Number of Admits					
	2018	% of Total	2019	% of Total	2020	% of Total
Los Angeles						
African American	528	6%	522	6%	544	6%
American Indian	69	1%	67	1%	63	1%
Chicano/Latino	2,014	23%	1,944	23%	2,113	23%
Pacific Islander	21	0%	28	0%	13	0%
URG Sub-total	2,632	30%	2,561	31%	2,733	30%
Asian American	3,598	41%	3,431	41%	3,903	42%
White	2,051	23%	2,004	24%	2,128	23%
Declined to State	449	5%	356	4%	444	5%
Total Los Angeles	8,730	100%	8,362	100%	9,208	100%

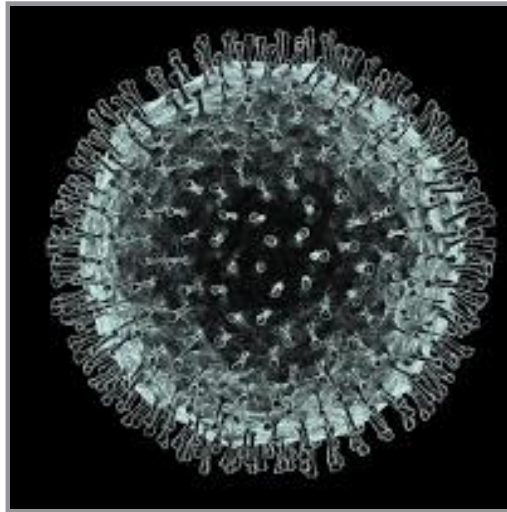
University of California CALIFORNIA COMMUNITY COLLEGE TRANSFER Admissions by Campus and Race/Ethnicity Fall 2018, 2019 and 2020						
	Number of Admits					
	2018	% of Total	2019	% of Total	2020	% of Total
Los Angeles						
African American	265	6%	262	6%	294	6%
American Indian	28	1%	26	1%	43	1%
Chicano/Latino	1,241	28%	1,119	26%	1,362	27%
Pacific Islander	8	0%	8	0%	11	0%
URG Sub-total	1,542	34%	1,416	33%	1,710	34%
Asian American	1,238	28%	1,157	27%	1,504	30%
White	1,564	35%	1,540	36%	1,665	33%
Declined to State	150	3%	149	3%	205	4%
Domestic Sub-Total	4,494	100%	4,262	100%	5,084	100%
International	755		621		608	
Total Los Angeles	5,249		4,883		5,692	

[Click on tables to clarify and enlarge.]

Source: <https://www.ucop.edu/institutional-research-academic-planning/content-analysis/ug-admissions/ug-pages/admissions.html>

UC Health Coronavirus Database

Friday, July 17, 2020



Catching up with recent news releases from UC:

University of California Health creates centralized data set to accelerate COVID-19 research

Wednesday, July 15, 2020

Drawing on electronic health records from across its academic health system, University of California Health has developed a unified, secure data set for use in COVID-19 research. The HIPAA Limited Data Set consisting of clinical information with more than 460 million data points is accessible to researchers across the entire UC system, enabling them to rapidly compare treatment options from previous patients to help future patients.

"Aggregating and using our collective clinical data in this safe and responsible way is one of a series of initiatives to speed up 'bench to bedside' research to treatment," said Atul Butte, chief data scientist for University of California Health and a distinguished professor at UCSF. "With the scale of the pandemic, we need as many UC researchers as possible to work on treatment options. Having access to this diverse data set that is already integrated may contain insights into COVID-19 that they may not find elsewhere, and can make their work more efficient. This type of dataset may provide a window into patterns they might not have otherwise been able to identify."

The University of California COVID Research Data Set (UC CORDS) simplifies the process a researcher would otherwise have to go through to have a critical mass of detailed clinical data and patient variables to make meaningful comparisons. Once the request is validated, researchers gain access to the systemwide data from UC Health's five academic health centers. UC CORDS follows the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services definition of a HIPAA Limited Data Set and excludes key direct identifiers of the individual or of relatives, employers, or household members of the individual.

The extent and 'richness' of information will continue to expand as University of California hospitals at UC Davis Health, UC San Diego Health, UCI Health, UCLA Health and UCSF Health care for a growing number of patients with COVID-19. The geographic distribution of UC hospitals across California means the data pulls from a broad section of the state's diverse population.

Patient diversity, along with details about age, pre-existing medical conditions and medications, and previous treatments, is essential to ensure findings are not unintentionally skewed due to homogeneity of the population. "Inequities in health care can start as early as the research phase," said Dr. Carrie L. Byington, executive vice president of University of California Health and an infectious disease expert. "We will always strive to avoid perpetuating inequities." Byington urged the creation of CORDS through the University of California's Biomedical Research Acceleration, Integration & Development consortium (UC BRAID), its five Clinical and Translational Science Award institutions, and University of California Health's Data Warehouse team in the Center for Data-driven Insights and Innovation (CDI2).

After completing a pre-release phase, UC CORDS now has hundreds of researchers who have expressed interest in leveraging the data. One example is Jonathan Watanabe, PharmD, associate director and founding associate dean of pharmacy assessment and quality at the UC Irvine Susan and Henry Samueli College of Health Sciences, who is using the data set to understand the use of telehealth during the pandemic and selection of medications.

"A significant benefit of UC CORDS is that it gives you insights into clinical practices in much closer to real-time and is representative of a broader patient population than any one organization would have on its own, which is critical for research during the pandemic," said Watanabe. "This kind of approach to aggregating and sharing data is what we need to create more accessible large, long-term data sets that help avoid a rush to conclusions based on questionable correlations and selection bias." Watanabe also noted the timesaving benefit of UC CORDS which harmonizes and pre-integrates types of data that would normally come from multiple, separate data sets, if available at all.

Even as University of California Health seeks to accelerate progress among its researchers, it is actively engaged in national efforts to find effective COVID-19 therapies. These include the National Institute of Health's ACT Network, through its National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences (NCATS), which is working to develop open access to de-identified electronic medical record data from a national network of leading academic health centers, and the Diagnostic Evidence Accelerator, a collaboration of the Reagan-Udall Foundation for the Food and Drug Administration and Friends of Cancer Research.

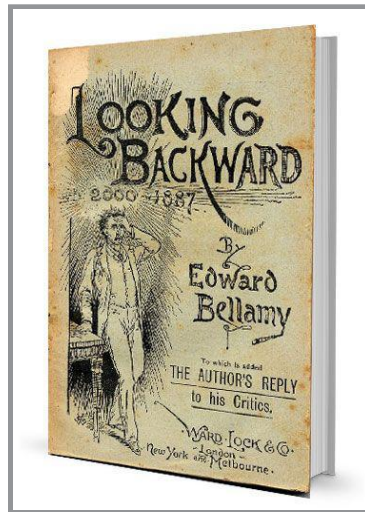
"The scale and speed of the pandemic calls for unprecedented internal cooperation and collaboration, and we can meet that need while maintaining safe, respectful, and responsible use of this data," said Butte.

Source: <https://www.universityofcalifornia.edu/press-room/university-california-health-creates-centralized-data-set-accelerate-covid-19-research>

See also <https://www.sacbee.com/news/local/health-and-medicine/article244260367.html>.

Looking Backward (to June)

Friday, July 17, 2020



In these times of coronavirus, time becomes blurry and events quickly overtake us. However, with all the caveats about the distortions the pandemic has caused in official labor-market data collection, there did seem to be signs of recovery back in June - just a month ago. The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported earlier today that the official unemployment rate fell in California from 16.4% in May to 14.9% in June.

Nonfarm payroll employment in California in that interval rose by 3.4%.*

Unfortunately, as we have noted in prior posts, the improvement accompanied a relaxation of the shutdown which led to increased public circulation for both recreation and protests around the Memorial Day weekend. With a lag, as might be expected, new cases of coronavirus followed that circulation, leading to a return to more restrictions on economic and social activity. We noted yesterday that there are now signs of a stall in the state's labor market based on new unemployment insurance claims data.**

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* <https://www.bls.gov/news.release/pdf/laus.pdf>.

** <https://uclafacultyassociation.blogspot.com/2020/07/stall-warning.html>.

Hard Times (at Berkeley)

Friday, July 17, 2020

COVID-19 impacts Berkeley budget, reduction measures required

JULY 15, 2020

Chancellor Carol Christ, Executive Vice Chancellor and Provost A. Paul Alivisatos, Vice Chancellor for Administration Marc Fisher, and Vice Chancellor for Finance and Chief Financial Officer Rosemarie Rae sent the following message to the campus community on Wednesday:

We write today to share the latest update on the campus budget. First, though, let us assure you that our decisions are being guided by a commitment to sustain the excellence of our education and research missions, protect the health of our campus community, and preserve as many jobs as possible. Thank you all for the work you have done during an incredibly challenging time in our university's history.

Budget status

Unfortunately, we are confronting challenges posed by the pandemic with a weak financial foundation due to the combined factors of insufficient state support for the university and no tuition increases for eight years.

As we have communicated previously, the effects of COVID-19 on our campus budget are significant and projected to total more than \$340 million. As detailed below, we will be able to mitigate much of these financial impacts of COVID-19 through short term borrowing, federal funding, and human resource actions leaving a gap of \$65 million for fiscal year 2021. Compared to financial pressures that Berkeley has faced in the past, the current situation is distinct in four ways. First, multiple revenue streams are affected. Second, we face a need to increase expenditures in some areas to support and facilitate remote work and instruction, testing and cleaning. Third, there is great uncertainty regarding the length and severity of the pandemic. Fourth, we do not know what the lasting effect the pandemic may have on student choices, higher education generally, or on the broader economy.

Our financial challenges fall into two categories. The impact of COVID on some functions, such as housing, dining, and other auxiliaries, has resulted in immediate losses in revenue and/or increased operational costs. While the short-term impact on these functions is significant, the long-term financial prospects for these services are excellent once we more fully re-start on-campus operations. The other category includes areas where we expect longer term duration and impacts, including State General Fund support; tuition and fees; and on-going necessary investments in remote learning and working.

We believe it is both realistic and prudent to anticipate that serious financial challenges will likely persist at least three years into the future.

Mitigation efforts

As you are aware, we have worked to mitigate COVID's impacts in a variety of ways,

including:

- *Implementing a hiring freeze; and*
- *Implementing a freeze on merit and cost-of-living increases for staff and faculty, respectively.*

In addition, we have secured \$30 million in federal funding for the campus through the CARES Act, \$15 million of which was allocated directly to student emergency aid and the remainder to be applied against losses from cancelled housing and dining contracts. We are also seeking assistance from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for coronavirus-related costs.

Unfortunately, all of these measures combined still leave us with a significant shortfall. Adding to the complexity is the degree of uncertainty regarding our fall enrollment, particularly with our international student population and the likelihood that the state support we will receive will be reduced from current levels unless the federal government passes additional stimulus funding before October 1st. For that reason, we are redoubling our advocacy efforts at the federal level, working closely with our higher education colleagues across the country, but a positive outcome is not guaranteed.

While our philanthropic efforts in recent years have been impressive and notable, those funds play only a limited role when it comes to budgetary challenges. Much of the money that is raised is designated by our donors to a specific fund, endowment, or project and is not available to provide budget relief. And, while many units have cash reserves, they are often restricted as to use or designated for specific purposes.

Additional expense reduction measures required

Therefore, we must consider additional measures to reduce our expenses for fiscal year 2021 with the understanding that our financial health will be reevaluated mid-year and each subsequent year during the recovery period as conditions change. Given that compensation and benefits account for a large proportion of our budget, expense reduction unfortunately must include workforce-related actions. It is our goal to minimize permanent layoffs and instead achieve savings through voluntary actions, attrition, and temporary layoffs. At present, the UC Office of the President has decided that the campuses should not offer additional options such as an early retirement or a furlough program.

Currently, the following measures are available to us, and we will need to implement some combination of them in order to meet our financial challenges, preserve our academic mission, protect the community's health and minimize permanent job losses:

A retirement incentive program for faculty (enhanced provisions in Pathways to Retirement agreements), for a limited window of time. (The incentives include an extension of the time faculty can keep their offices and labs, increasing the payment for recall teaching, and recalling faculty for research.)

- *Voluntary Separation Program for Staff (with incentives based on years of service)*
- *Temporary work reassignment*
- *Temporary Layoffs (while maintaining benefits)*
- *Temporary and permanent reductions in time (benefits remain intact if you are at 50% time or greater, however service credit does not)*

- *Voluntary salary reductions.*

*More information is available on the People & Culture COVID-19 information website.**

Addressing questions and concerns

We will be arranging a series of budget discussions and presentations with faculty and staff groups to answer questions and invite input. This coming Monday, July 20, from noon-1:30 pm, Chief People & Culture Officer Eugene Whitlock will hold a Managers' Forum to explain the budget reduction measures that are available pertaining to human-resource actions. In addition, we will hold a Campus Conversation on Friday, July 31, from noon-1 pm. We invite you to pose questions for the panelists or leave a comment on the campus coronavirus website by clicking on the "contact us" box.

Deans, department chairs, vice chancellors, and managers and supervisors will receive budget instructions by the end of July. As has historically been the case, decisions about how best to achieve budget targets will be made at the local, departmental level.

We realize this news contributes to an already stressful time. We remain committed to transparency in our decision making and listening to your concerns. We have come together in remarkable ways over the last few months to sustain our mission, which is more important than ever. In fact, in our 150-year history as a university, we have demonstrated our resilience during times as challenging as the one in which we find ourselves. Let us continue to do so.

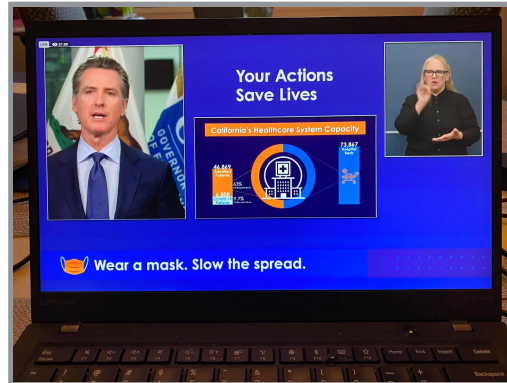
Source: <https://news.berkeley.edu/2020/07/15/update-on-budget-expense-reduction-measures/>

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* <https://hr.berkeley.edu/covid-19-resources>

Governor to produce guidelines for online higher education

Saturday, July 18, 2020



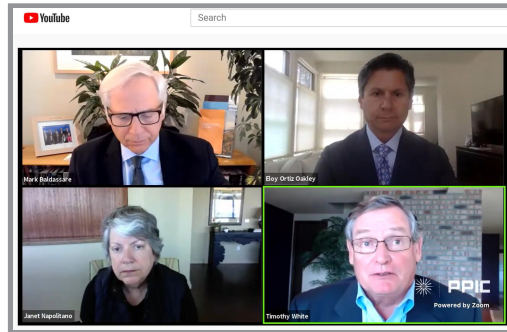
News conference of 7-17-2020 You have probably seen the headlines about Governor Newsom's order yesterday essentially putting K-12 on an online-only basis for most school districts (including those in LA County).

During a live-streamed news conference, he also mentioned, in response to a reporter's question, that he is working with UC (including incoming president Michael Drake), CSU, and the community colleges on "guidelines" for online higher education to be announced soon. It was unclear what connection the guidelines would have with plans for the fall already announced by the various UC campuses.

To see the governor's statement, go to <https://archive.org/details/newsom-7-1-20/newsom+7-17-20.mp4>, and then go to minute 42:42.

PPIC Forum on State Higher Ed

Saturday, July 18, 2020



The Public Policy Institute of California (PPIC) sponsored a forum on state higher education yesterday. Topics included online education, the ballot proposition to remove the ban on affirmative action, campus policing, and other issues. You can see the forum at:

or direct to: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=grUMiiZkKcc>

The UC Budget: What Is Projected?

Saturday, July 18, 2020

UC Budget 2020-21 (\$000s)	2019-20	2020-21	% Change
General Fund	\$ 3,938,304	\$ 3,465,953	-12.0%
Breast Cancer	\$ 11,195	\$ 14,537	
State Highway	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000	
State Transportation	\$ 980	\$ 980	
Tobacco	\$ 11,436	\$ 8,235	
Earthquake	\$ 81	\$ -	
Oil Spill	\$ 2,500	\$ 2,500	
Lottery	\$ 41,736	\$ 41,672	
Federal	\$ 3,500	\$ 9,500	
Breast Cancer Research	\$ 178	\$ 178	
Umbilical Cord	\$ 2,500	\$ 2,500	
Health Care	\$ 2,000	\$ 2,000	
Road Maintenance	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000	
Medical Education	\$ 76,023	\$ 35,649	
Medical Research	\$ 70,821	\$ 96,195	
Cannabis Carryover	\$ 2,000	\$ -	
Cannabis	\$ 2,000	\$ 2,000	
Cancer	\$ 425	\$ 425	
Diabetes	\$ 250	\$ 250	
Non-General Fund	\$ 233,625	\$ 222,621	-4.7%
All State Funding	\$ 4,171,929	\$ 3,688,574	-11.6%
Total UC Budget	\$ 39,771,401	\$ 41,445,151	4.2%

The Dept. of Finance has now released detailed state budget figures including those for UC. As it stands now, General Fund allocation to UC has fallen from the prior fiscal year by 12.0%. UC also receives funding from the state from various funds outside the General Fund. Allocations from those outside funds, netted together, have fallen by 4.7%. Thus, state funding from all sources has fallen by 11.6%. You don't need yours truly to tell you that is a lot.

The overall UC budget, however, has risen by 4.2% in these projections - which are just that - projections which are being made in the face of all the uncertainty caused by the coronavirus crisis. *Note that state funding in 2020-21 is projected to make up only 8.9% of the total UC budget, down from 10.5% the year before.* Where is the money coming from that allows the total budget to rise as state allocations fall? It appears to come mainly from (maybe optimistic) assumptions about more revenue from such things as hospital receipts, research grants, etc. It does not come from tuition which is frozen. Under the state budget's terms, if the feds come up with more "stimulus" money, UC's funding would increase. Whether that will happen and how much more money might be received if it does happen is unclear at this point.

Source of the table above: <http://www.ebudget.ca.gov/2020-21/pdf/Enacted/GovernorsBudget/6000/6440RWA.pdf>.

See also: <http://www.ebudget.ca.gov/2020-21/pdf/Enacted/GovernorsBudget/6000/6440.pdf> and <http://www.ebudget.ca.gov/2020-21/pdf/Enacted/GovernorsBudget/6000/6440FCS.pdf> for other related information.

Regents' Public Engagement Committee Meets July 22

Sunday, July 19, 2020



The days before coronavirus and Zoom meetings. There will be an off-cycle meeting of the Regents' Public Engagement and Development Committee this coming Wednesday. Below are excerpts from the agenda:

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Date: July 22, 2020

Time: 9:00 a.m.

Locations: Teleconference meeting conducted in accordance with Paragraph 3 of Governor Newsom's Executive Order N-29-20

Agenda – Open Session

Public Comment Period

Action: Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting of March 18, 2020

Discussion items:

LEGAL GUIDELINES FOR PARTICIPATION IN BALLOT CAMPAIGNS: CALIFORNIA 2020 BALLOT INITIATIVES - PROPOSITIONS 14 AND 16

At the open session of two previous Board meetings, The Board of Regents officially endorsed two state ballot measures that will appear on the November, 2020 ballot for a vote by the California electorate. Those measure were:

- 1) Assembly Constitutional Amendment 5, which would repeal Proposition 209. (This measure has now been designated Proposition 16 by the Secretary of State's office), and
- 2) The California Stem Cell Research, Treatments and Cures Initiative of 2020, which would authorize \$5.5 billion in State general obligation bonds to fund certain stem cell and other research. (This measure has now been designated Proposition 14 by the Secretary of State's office).

This discussion item is intended to provide background on the law prohibiting public entities such as the University from campaigning for or against a measure that has qualified for the ballot, as well as guidance for members of the Board of Regents who, when acting in their official capacity, are considered University officials...

STUDENT VOTER REGISTRATION EFFORTS

Senior Vice President for External Relations and Communications Holmes will review the University of California's systemwide 2020 voter registration and civic engagement campaign, which aims to boost voter registration and turnout in the 2020 election and support State efforts around the U.S. Census. The nonpartisan campaign launched in January and will run through the November presidential election. Ms. Holmes will be joined by University of California Student Association (UCSA) President Varsha Sarveshwar, who will discuss student-led outreach and engagement efforts around the 2020 elections and Census...

STATE AND FEDERAL GOVERNMENT UPDATE:

Senior Vice President for External Relations and Communications Holmes, Associate Vice President of State Governmental Relations Kieran Flaherty, and Associate Vice President of Federal Governmental Relations Chris Harrington will provide information regarding several student-centered bills in the State Legislature and update the Committee on State and federal budget issues during the current COVID-19 epidemic...

- Senate Bill (SB) 882 (Wiener) – CalFresh Application and Certification Streamlining
- Assembly Bill (AB) 2282 (McCarty) – CalFresh enrollment: institutions of higher education.
- SB 860 (Beall) – Foster Youth Services Coordinating Program: financial aid applications.
- SB 912 (Beall) – California Fostering Connections to Success Act.
- AB 1229 (Wicks) – End Foster Youth Student Hunger in California Act of 2019.
- AB 2416 (Gabriel) – Student Financial Aid: satisfactory academic progress (SAP).
- SB 1232 (Glazer) – CalWORKs: postsecondary education.
- AB 2353 (McCarty) – Affordable Housing for Students...

As of June 30, Congress and the federal government have directed more than \$750 million to UC students, campuses, academic health centers, and for research through the CARES Act. In addition, UC Health has accessed an additional \$934.8 million through advance payments from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. At the State level, legislative leaders and the Governor passed a budget for 2020–21 whereby UC's base budget reductions are less than initially anticipated in the May budget revision. In the Budget Act of 2020, the University even stands to gain as much as the Governor initially envisioned in his January budget proposal, dependent on the State realizing additional federal funds over the next few months...

UPDATE ON PLANS FOR THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA CENTER IN SACRAMENTO

UC Center Sacramento (UCCS) is a systemwide program established in 2004 to educate students for public service and to disseminate information needed to inform public policy. UCCS's academic program provides students with an opportunity to participate in seminars and internships in and around the State Capitol and serves as a conduit through which research-based knowledge generated on the ten campuses is shared with lawmakers, legislative staff, and other State officials. In a series of reports to the Regents, Provost Brown has outlined goals to expand the UCCS program and next steps for implementation of the shared vision... Regents Kieffer, Leib, and Reilly have committed to leading a fundraising effort to raise the private support necessary to realize the UCCS expansion... They are working closely with several members of the UCCS Advisory Board who are equally passionate about this project are actively participating in the

fundraising effort. They include:

- Stephen Arditti, former Assistant Vice President, SGR, UCOP
- Delaine Eastin, 25th Superintendent of Public Instruction of California and State Assembly Member 1986–1994
- Diane Griffiths, General Counsel, Senate Pro Tempore Toni Atkins, former Secretary and Chief of Staff to The Regents
- Thomas McMorrow, UCCS Advisory Board Chair
- Roger Niello, State Assembly Member 2004–2010

FUTURE COMMITTEE TOPICS FOR THE UPCOMING YEAR

The July meeting marks the beginning of new Committee membership and an occasion to discuss the Committee priorities and possible agenda items for the upcoming year. Last year, Committee Chair Leib, along with then-Committee Vice Chair Simmons outlined a plan to bring the Committee to the University's constituents. The Committee travelled to the Mann UCLA Community School, a middle school in Los Angeles, and to the UC Merced campus and City of Merced to meet directly with students, faculty, and staff. The planned visit to a community college has been deferred due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Chair Leib and Committee Vice Chair Stegura would like to explore ways the Committee can continue to connect with UC constituents and discuss possible topics of interest and relevance to the Committee in the upcoming year. This will provide committee members the opportunity to also provide input...

Full agenda is at <https://regents.universityofcalifornia.edu/regmeet/july20/public-engagement.pdf>.

As usual, yours truly will post the audio some time after the meeting.

Drake's Cautious Answer on SAT/ACT

Monday, July 20, 2020



Incoming UC prez Michael Drake was cautious about answering a question on the use of the SAT or ACT for admissions on "Face the Nation" yesterday:

...MARGARET BRENNAN: Now that you're at UC, they have taken some high profile steps to attempt to increase diversity within the school system. One of the more controversial ones was this decision to do away with the requirement of SAT or ACT tests in the future, despite some arguments within the university that that doing so would result in lower grade averages or lower graduation rates. And I wonder how you think about addressing these concerns that- that eliminating the standard somehow lowers them?

DR. DRAKE: Well, we are in no way attempting to lower standards at all. We have a variety of things that we consider in admissions. I was admissions- in charge of admissions for the UCSF Medical School for many years and in the past. And we used a variety of things to determine the qualifications for students who are going to be admitted to our university. We're very proud that we have so many students interested in attending and we have to judge between them. And what we found is that standardized tests provide marginal information. They- they can help, but they don't tell the whole picture. And particularly in this time of COVID, when the- the opportunity to study and prepare for a test is quite uneven between those students who might be applying for us, we wanted to remove any potential barriers for students who might not have access to all the support that they need during this time to prepare for taking the test and therefore artificially score lower than they might. So the- the plan is to retreat from those standardized tests now and to think about other ways that we might gather that information as we look forward in the future. It's an ongoing discussion for us.

Full interview at <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/transcript-dr-michael-drake-on-face-the-nation-july-19-2020/>.

Note that Ohio State does require the SAT or ACT, although it has made the tests optional for this year due to the coronavirus situation. See below from the Ohio State website:

Testing FAQs

Is there any change to the ACT or SAT requirement?

Because of the uncertainty of future test dates and availability of standardized tests in the 2021 admissions cycle, Ohio State will make the submission of ACT or SAT test scores optional for most applicants to the Columbus campus for the 2021 spring, summer or autumn semesters. This decision underscores Ohio State's commitment to reducing barriers for students who plan to apply to Ohio State but are unable to access an ACT or SAT testing date.

Applicants are encouraged to take the ACT or SAT and submit test scores if they are available, as we believe that standardized test scores provide useful information about a student's success at Ohio State.

- Applicants who have taken the ACT or SAT and feel their scores reflect their abilities should submit them.
- Applicants who do not have scores, who had limited opportunities to take the ACT or SAT more than once, or who feel that their scores do not reflect their ability to be successful at Ohio State should select the score waiver option when completing the Common Application. **Note:** See below for which students are still required to send scores, including home-schooled students.
- Applicants will receive full consideration in the admissions process and in review for scholarships, direct enrollment to their college or school, Honors and Scholars Programs, and the Morrill Scholarship Program even if they are unable or choose not to submit a score.

Source: <http://undergrad.osu.edu/covid-19-response/students-applying-for-autumn-2021#test-optional-faqs>

Our Kind of Donation

Tuesday, July 21, 2020



From time to time, yours truly likes to highlight donations that support teaching, research, and students at UCLA - as opposed to imposing structures. Here is one:

Alumna's Gift will Support the Study of Contemporary Chinese Culture

A \$250,000 donation from economics alumna May C. Chong has established the Heritage and Hope Endowment in the Department of Asian Languages and Cultures. Augmented by \$125,000 from the Humanities Centennial Match, the gift will support students and faculty researching contemporary global Chinese culture and/or religion, specifically Buddhism.

"We are deeply grateful for May Chong's generous gift, which will firmly embed contemporary Chinese cultural studies on our campus," Dean of Humanities David Schaberg said. "More broadly, this gift further empowers UCLA in its mission to educate global citizens and foster greater cultural understanding."

Chong, who graduated from UCLA in 1979, grew up in Hong Kong and immigrated to the United States after graduating from high school. As a student, she spent hours in the Richard C. Rudolph East Asian Library in UCLA's Young Research Library, considering it her "home away from home." In 2011, she established an endowment for the library supporting the acquisition of books and materials, including primarily Chinese classics, culture, education and modern literature, as well as publications in Chinese or dual language (Chinese-English)...

Full news release at <https://www.college.ucla.edu/2020/07/13/alumnas-gift-will-support-the-study-of-contemporary-chinese-culture/>

What Could Possibly Go Wrong - Part 3

Tuesday, July 21, 2020



Loyal blog readers may recall our misgivings about the campus switching from landline (old fashioned) phone service to VoIP. But you would have to be really loyal and, in addition, have a very good memory, so we will remind you below. Links to our prior posts are also below.*

Back in the day of the 1994 Northridge earthquake, the landlines at UCLA continued to function even though the power was out throughout the LA region. Of course, that earthquake occurred at around 4:30 am, so there weren't a lot of folks on campus. (But recall that there were lots of folks in the hospital - as usual.)

The ongoing switch to VoIP on campus involves a complicated wireless arrangement. The state is still trying to get wireless providers somehow to guarantee that there won't be failures in an emergency, such as occurred during the Bay Area wildfires. See:

<https://www.sacbee.com/news/california/article244347847.html>

We also noted that the campus used to have - but appears no longer to support - a low-powered AM radio service for emergencies that covered the Westwood area. Even if you don't think you have a battery powered AM radio, if you have a car - or have access to a car - you have one. And earthquake kits often include a wind-up or battery powered radio.

Sometimes, simple is better.

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* <https://uclafacultyassociation.blogspot.com/2019/12/what-could-possibly-go-wrong.html>

and

https://uclafacultyassociation.blogspot.com/2020/02/what-could-possibly-go-wrong-part-2_26.html

Not to worry

Tuesday, July 21, 2020



NOTE: Fall semester at Berkeley begins in less than a month.

From SFGATE: **July 21, 8 a.m.** *UC Berkeley continues to see a trickle of coronavirus cases among staff and students after the university experienced a small outbreak at the start of the month. Officials said the situation is under control through testing and contact tracing.*

"Contact tracing has been going very well thanks to the effort of university health services in coordination with Berkeley public health and the numbers are going in the right direction (slower rate of increase from that first week when we announced)," University Health Services spokesperson Janet Gilmore wrote in an email. "And individuals asked to come in and test are doing so." Between July 1 and 8, the university detected 47 new cases and found the notable increase was likely tied to fraternity parties. A week later, between July 9 and 14, UC Berkeley's student health services discovered 25 more cases. Since then four new cases have been reported. Source: <https://www.sfgate.com/news/editorspicks/article/Updates-California-Los-Angeles-shelter-in-place-15423039.php>

Paid Family Leave Announcement

Wednesday, July 22, 2020



An announcement appeared on UCNet last week which yours truly missed. It is unclear how the paid family leave benefit described below will intersect for ladder faculty with current arrangements such as stopping the tenure "clock." It is also odd that this program was not discussed at the prior Regents meeting. There is also no mention in the announcement of negotiations about the benefit with unions for union-represented employees (which is a legal requirement under state law) *prior* to this announcement, although it is mentioned as something that will occur. Apparently, there hasn't been pre-announcement consultation with the Academic Senate. In any event, here is the announcement:

New paid family leave benefit approved for UC faculty and staff

Monday, July 13, 2020

UC's Council of Chancellors has unanimously approved a recommendation for a new paid family leave benefit for UC employees, effective July 1, 2021. This recommendation, supported by President Napolitano and Systemwide Human Resources, provides eight weeks of leave at 70% of wages for UC faculty and staff who need time off to care for a seriously ill family member or bond with a new child.

"The chancellors were in agreement that this is the right thing to do for our employees," said Interim Vice President of Systemwide Human Resources Cheryl Lloyd. "Offering paid family leave adds the University of California to the list of other top employers that recognize how important it is to have family friendly policies and practices to recruit and retain the best."

Systemwide groups that include the Systemwide Advisory Council on the Status of Women (SACSW), the Council of University of California Staff Assemblies (CUCSA) and the Staff Advisors to the Regents have been advocating for this important benefit for many years. The recommendation was developed by a cross functional workgroup comprised of members representing Human Resources, Academic Personnel, UC Legal,

staff representatives and leadership, and is in alignment with the paid family leave benefit that is offered by the State of California.

Over the next year, Human Resources leadership, Academic Personnel and faculty leaders across the UC system, as well as other key stakeholders, will collaborate on the development of the new paid family leave benefit, finalizing details about how this new benefit will be implemented and how it will be coordinated with existing leave policies as well as paid family leave benefits already in place at some locations. This benefit is subject to collective bargaining for represented employees. We will keep the UC community informed before the July 1, 2021 effective date, as more information becomes available.

Source: <https://ucnet.universityofcalifornia.edu/news/2020/07/new-paid-family-leave-benefit-approved-for-uc-faculty-and-staff.html>

U-Turn on Reopening Plans

Wednesday, July 22, 2020



Reopening plans at UC Berkeley, other campuses fall apart amid coronavirus surge

Teresa Watanabe, 7-21-20, [LA Times](#)

Hopes that college life might begin a slow return to normal this fall were deflated Tuesday, when two University of California campuses announced they would begin the semester with fully remote instruction amid a pandemic surge.

UC Berkeley and UC Merced had hoped to open Aug. 26 with a mix of online, in-person and hybrid classes. But they reversed those plans as COVID-19 infections began their record-shattering increases throughout California, with cases now topping more than 400,000 and deaths, 7,800. In Los Angeles County, half of new COVID-19 cases were among those ages 18 to 40...

"What you're seeing is people having a great deal of respect for the power of this virus and doing everything they can to provide high-quality education in the safest way," said Ted Mitchell, president of the American Council on Education, which represents more than 1,700 colleges and universities. "Nationally, people are beginning to pull back on the intensity of their in-person instruction."

Most institutions will continue to offer some on-campus housing for those in need, such as students facing housing hardships or from other countries. Berkeley plans to make about one-third of its beds available, downsizing to single-occupancy rooms, and has issued about 3,200 housing contracts with space still available, campus officials said.

Glenn DeGuzman, Berkeley's residential life director, said students considering whether to come to campus should talk to their families to make sure they are well-informed and comfortable with the risks and restrictions of doing so.

Students who choose to return to campus will be tested for COVID-19 within 24 hours of arrival and sequestered for 7 to 10 days, then tested again. They will be expected to refrain from outside contact except during essential tasks, such as getting food, and required to wear masks at nearly all times.

Those who violate the rules will be "held accountable," with possible restrictions on access to buildings or services, DeGuzman said during an online campus conversation

Tuesday.

To help foster connections during this isolating time, Berkeley plans to organize “social bubbles” of 10 to 12 students each who would be allowed to socialize with each other to create a “smaller family-like experience,” DeGuzman said.

UC Merced also has scaled back its planned reopening. The Central Valley campus had hoped to offer as many as 30% of its classes in-person but will begin fall term with fully online classes for at least the first four weeks. Merced also plans to fill less than 20% of its 4,000 beds with only certain students, such as those in financial or physical need.

The limited on-campus experience could hit Merced students particularly hard. Among UC’s nine undergraduate campuses, Merced educates the largest proportion of students who are low-income, 64%, and the first in their families to attend college, 74%. Buttressed by research showing that students who live together in small learning communities do best, Merced had instituted a two-year on-campus living requirement, but the pandemic has forced the university to waive it for the coming year.

UCLA, which does not begin its fall quarter until September, has not yet changed its goal to hold about 15% to 20% of classes in person and open some campus housing. USC announced this month it would scale down fall reopening plans and offer only 10% to 20% of courses in person...

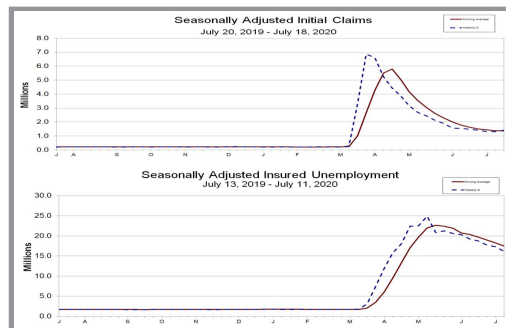
Full story at <https://www.latimes.com/california/story/2020-07-21/plans-for-partial-fall-reopening-shelved-at-uc-berkeley-merced-amid-pandemic-surge>

Stall Warning - Part 2

Thursday, July 23, 2020



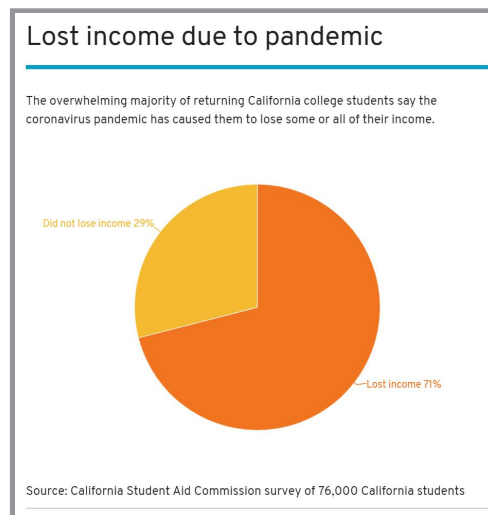
There still are a mix of signs from the labor market concerning the economic situation in the face of rising coronavirus cases. At the national level, the number of new weekly claims for unemployment insurance rose and stands at 1.4 million for the week ending July 18. But the number of people receiving benefits fell. On an unadjusted basis, new claims were also 1.4 million. At the moment, the \$600 supplement to UI is set to expire and it is unclear what Congress and the Senate will do - if anything - to prevent the lapse. California remains with a disproportionate share of those receiving unemployment insurance (16.7% in the prior week).



[Click on image to enlarge and clarify.] The latest data are at <https://www.dol.gov/ui/data.pdf>.

More Aid?

Thursday, July 23, 2020



[Click on image to enlarge and clarify.] From CalMatters: *UCLA student Dulce Jimenez didn't file a federal student aid application for the 2020-21 school year; she was set to graduate in spring, and thought the days of worrying about paying for school would be behind her. But then the coronavirus pandemic hit. Jimenez found herself dropping a class, then needing to make it up during the summer — just when her parents' work hours had been reduced.*

Paying for a class out of pocket would add to her family's financial stress, Jimenez said. "I am concerned about having to pay for my educational costs because things are really tight for my parents, so they would not be able to help me," she said. So Jimenez asked UCLA to revisit her financial aid, becoming one of a growing number of University of California and California State University students appealing their aid packages as their families face economic fallout from COVID-19. Officials at both universities say financial aid appeals are up systemwide, with especially dramatic increases on some campuses. By the end of spring quarter, UC Riverside students had filed twice as many financial aid appeals as they had the year before. At UCLA, financial aid director Ina Sotomayor said requests for additional funding for the fall are already up by 36%. Many students filing appeals are coping with unemployment. About 71% of returning college students in California say they have lost some or all of their income due to the pandemic, according to a recent survey of 76,000 students by the California Student Aid Commission. Thirty-four percent say they'll need to work more in the fall to afford educational and living expenses, while 21% think they should attend a college that is less expensive... The federal CARES Act has bolstered campuses' financial aid budgets; California's public colleges and universities received more than \$680 million to distribute in grants to students, doling it out in chunks of \$150 to about \$2,000. Colleges have also sought aid from private donors — UC Berkeley raised \$1 million in donations for emergency grants to undocumented and international student. But some financial aid officers said they worried about keeping up with the need if colleges don't get another round of federal stimulus money. UC Davis financial aid director Deborah Agee said that she encourages students with unmet need to take loans, noting that the default rate for students at the campus is under two percent. "I like to remind students that you need that money to complete your education. You should take it," she said... Full story at

<https://calmatters.org/education/higher-education/2020/07/financial-aid-appeals-california-students-coronavirus/>

Regents Next Week

Thursday, July 23, 2020



The Regents back in the day before Zoom Below is the agenda for next week's Regents meetings. Some annotation of topics of interest has been added:

Day 1 (July 28)

INVESTMENTS COMMITTEE

Date: July 28, 2020

Time: 1:00 p.m.

Locations: Teleconference meeting conducted in accordance with Paragraph 3 of Governor Newsom's Executive Order N-29-20

Agenda – Open Session

- Public Comment Period
- I1 Action: Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting of May 19, 2020
- Discussion: Fiscal Year 2019/2020 Update from Chief Investment Officer
- I2 Action: Amendment of Investment Policy Statements and Guidelines (Regent Policies 6102, 6108, and 6109) and Rescission of Asset and Risk Allocation Policies (Regent Policies 6402, 6403 and 6404)
- I3 Action: Amendment of the University of California Retirement Savings Program Plan Documents to Allow Plan Distributions for a Deferred Annuity Purchase

Note:From the documentation: ...*The Office of the Chief Investment Officer proposes to expand the existing Target Date Fund series (Pathway Funds) to include a type of deferred income annuity known as a Qualified Longevity Annuity Contract (QLAC) which will be tentatively named Lifetime Income. A QLAC is a form of deferred income annuity that allows participants to use a portion of their defined contribution plan balance to generate lifelong guaranteed income payments, regardless of market performance. These guaranteed payments would begin at an age later than an individual's retirement age and continue through the rest of the individual's life. This type of income option can help participants generate guaranteed income in the years they are likely to need it most (late life), while providing access to a large proportion of their accumulated savings in their early retirement years, when they may desire greater flexibility. This feature will be particularly beneficial to the increasing number of Savings Choice participants. Due to the purchasing power of the University's Office of the Chief Investment Officer, participants will be able to purchase the QLAC at institutional pricing, which was otherwise unavailable to individuals...*

14 Discussion: Update on Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Sustainable Investing

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SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON BASIC NEEDS

Date: July 28, 2020

Time: 4:00 p.m.

Locations: Teleconference meeting conducted in accordance with Paragraph 3 of Governor Newsom's Executive Order N-29-20
S1 Agenda – Open Session

- Action: Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting of May 19, 2020
- Discussion: Financial Aid Offer Letters

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HEALTH SERVICES COMMITTEE

Date: July 28, 2020

Time: 4:30 p.m.

Locations: Teleconference meeting conducted in accordance with Paragraph 3 of Governor Newsom's Executive Order N-29-20
Agenda – Closed Session

- Action: Approval of the Minutes of the Meetings of December 10, 2019 and February 12, 2020
- H1(X) Discussion: Extension of Appointment of and Compensation for the Interim Chief Executive Officer, UC Davis Medical Center, Davis Campus, in Addition to his Existing Appointment as Chief Operating Officer, UC Davis Medical Center, Davis Campus. Closed Session Statute Citation: Personnel Matters [Education Code §92032(b)(7)]
- H2(X) Discussion: Acquisition of Acute Care Hospital, Medical Office Building, and Parking Garage, Los Angeles Campus. Closed Session Statute Citation: Acquisition or disposition of property [Education Code §92032(b)(6)] No information is available on what hospital is being considered. A closed hospital was temporarily reopened for a coronavirus overflow that never quite occurred. Is that it? There is also the old Century City hospital which UCLA has in partnership as a rehab facility. Is that it?

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Day 2 (July 29)

Full Board

Date: July 29, 2020

Time: 8:30 am

Locations: Teleconference Meeting Conducted in Accordance with Paragraph 3 of Governor Newsom's Executive Order N-29-20
Agenda – Open Session

- Public Comment Period (20 minutes)
- Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting of May 20, 2020
- Remarks of the Chair of the Board
- Remarks of the President of the University
- Remarks of the Chair of the Academic Senate

- Committee Report: Special Committee to Select a Student Regent: Appointment of 2021-22 Student Regent

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HEALTH SERVICES COMMITTEE

Date: July 29, 2020

Time: 10:00 am

Locations: Teleconference meeting conducted in accordance with Paragraph 3 of Governor Newsom's Executive Order N-29-20

Agenda – Open Session

- H1 Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting of May 20, 2020
- H2 Approval of Extension of Appointment of and Compensation for Interim Chief Executive Officer, UC Davis Medical Center, Davis Campus, in Addition to his Existing Appointment as Chief Operating Officer, UC Davis Medical Center, Davis Campus
- H3 Discussion: Update of COVID-19 Impact on the University of California: UC Health Issues

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NATIONAL LABORATORIES COMMITTEE

Date: July 29, 2020

Time: 11:15 am

Locations: Teleconference meeting conducted in accordance with Paragraph 3 of Governor Newsom's Executive Order N-29-20

Agenda – Open Session

- Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting of January 22, 2020
- Allocation of LLC Fee Income to be Expended in Fiscal Year 2020-21
- Approval of Use of Capital and Campus Opportunity Fund for Revitalization of Hertz Hall Complex at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory

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COMPLIANCE AND AUDIT COMMITTEE

Date: July 29, 2020

Time: 2:00 p.m.

Location: Teleconference meeting conducted in accordance with Paragraph 3 of Governor Newsom's Executive Order N-29-20

Agenda – Open Session

- Action: Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting of March 18, 2020
- C5 Action: Approval of Internal Audit Plan for 2020-21
- C6 Discussion: University of California Community Safety

NOTE: Despite the bland heading of the above item C6, it is a discussion of campus police policies. Anything to do with policing is likely to be of interest due to recent events.

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GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

Date: July 29, 2020

Time: 3:30 p.m.

Locations: Teleconference meeting conducted in accordance with Paragraph 3 of

Governor Newsom's Executive Order N-29-20
Agenda – Open Session

- Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting of May 20, 2020
- Approval of Conferral of the Emeritus Title Suffix for Director of the Berkeley Art Museum and Pacific Film Archive, Berkeley Campus as Discussed in Closed Session
- Approval of Extension of Appointment of and Compensation for Interim Associate Vice President – Capital Asset Strategies and Finance, in Addition to Existing Appointment as Associate Vice President – Systemwide Controller, Office of the President as Discussed in Closed Session
- Discussion: Report of the Regents Working Group on Chancellor Search and Selection. Acceptance of the Report of the Regents Working Group on Chancellor Search and Selection
- Amendment of Regents Policy 7102 — Policy on Appointment of Chancellor, the Charters of the Governance Committee and Health Services Committee, and the Schedule of Reports to the Regents Suspension of Bylaw 21.7 for the Limited Purpose of Enabling Regents to Serve on an Advisory Board on the Berkeley Campus
- Information Annual Report on Compensated Outside Professional Activities for the Senior Management Group for Calendar Year 2019

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FINANCE AND CAPITAL STRATEGIES COMMITTEE

Date: July 29, 2020

Time: 4:30 p.m.

Locations: Teleconference meeting conducted in accordance with Paragraph 3 of Governor Newsom's Executive Order N-29-20

Agenda – Open Session

- Approval of the Minutes of the Meetings of May 19 and 20, 2020
- Consent Agenda:

A. Continuation of Life-Safety Fee, Berkeley Campus

B. Preliminary Plans Funding, Academic Seismic Replacement Building (Evans Hall Seismic Replacement), Berkeley Campus

C. Approval of Design Following Action Pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act, Orchard Park Graduate Student Housing and Family Housing Project, Davis Campus

Approval of Services Agreements with Bear River Holdings LLC and Certain Other Affiliated Entities, Davis Campus

- Preliminary Plans Funding, Hospital Bed Replacement Tower, Davis Health Campus
- Discussion: Comprehensive Parnassus Heights Plan, Long Range Development Plan Amendment and Physical Design Framework Amendment, San Francisco Campus
- Discussion: Health and Behavioral Sciences Building (Medical Education Project), Merced Campus
- Information: 2021-22 State Capital Budget
- Information: Welcome Center Building on Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory's Main Campus in Berkeley

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ACADEMIC AND STUDENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Date: July 29, 2020

Time: 4:30 pm

Locations: Teleconference meeting conducted in accordance with Paragraph 3 of Governor Newsom's Executive Order N-29-20

- Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting of May 20, 2020
- Establishment of a School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences, Irvine Campus
- Discussion: Accountability Sub-Report on Diversity: Staff Diversity Outcomes
- Discussion: University of California Student Academic Preparation Strategies

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Day 3 (July 30)

Full Board

Date: July 30, 2020

Time: 8:30 a.m.

Locations: Teleconference meeting conducted in accordance with Paragraph 3 of Governor Newsom's Executive Order N-29-20

Agenda – Open Session

- Public Comment Period
- Annual Awards for Outstanding Student Leadership
- Remarks from Student Associations
- Annual Report of University of California Staff Assemblies
- Approval of the Minutes of the Meetings of May 21 and June 15, 2020
- Discussion: 2020 UC Accountability Report: Highlights and UC 2030 Updates
- **Discussion: Thirty-Meter Telescope Update**

Note: This item has been controversial. Oddly, no report or documentation is attached to the agenda as of this date. Possibly, a report could be added later.

- Discussion: Update on the 2020-21 Operating Budget
- Action: Fiscal Year 2020-21 Budget for the University of California Office of the President

Full agenda at <https://regents.universityofcalifornia.edu/meetings/agendas/july20.html>

Anyone going to talk about this at the Regents next week?

Thursday, July 23, 2020



"Time will tell," "neutral." UC-San Francisco is amazingly passive about saving their murals.

UCSF New Deal murals could be destroyed

J.K. Dineen, 7-22-20, San Francisco Chronicle

The San Francisco Board of Supervisors has initiated the landmarking process for 10 Depression-era frescoes that could be destroyed as part of UCSF's 1.5-million-square-foot expansion at its Parnassus Heights campus. The series, "History of Medicine in California," was painted in 1935 by radical artist Bernard Zakheim, a Polish-born muralist who studied with Diego Rivera and contributed to the murals inside Coit Tower. It was one of more than 220,000 works of art partly funded by the Works Project Administration.

In June, The Chronicle first reported that the murals likely would be a victim of the UCSF expansion unless an individual or group came forward with a plan and money to move the murals, which weigh 2,500 pounds apiece. UCSF said it had consulted with two preservation architecture groups that concluded it would cost \$8 million to preserve and move the artwork, and that some of the panels could be damaged in the process.

"UCSF has decided not to use public funds to physically preserve the murals, especially at a time when the UC system faces financial challenges in the wake of COVID-19," the university said in a statement at the time. "This decision in no way has to do with any complaints about the murals."

On Monday, however, UCSF Vice Chancellor Brian Newman told the supervisors' Land Use and Transportation Committee that the university would like to see the artwork preserved.

"We understand how passionate people are, including our own community and alumni, to preserve these murals," Newman said. "Time will tell, based on the work we are doing now, if they can be saved."

Peskin described the landmarking as "honorific" because UCSF, as a branch of state government, is not subject to San Francisco's zoning or planning codes. That means that

even if the murals are designated a city landmark, UCSF could destroy them.

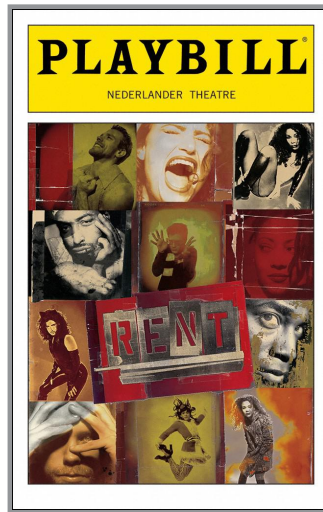
“(UCSF) is not subject to our local laws, but I believe that these incredible, radical 10-part frescoes deserve that level of honor and deserve that protection,” Peskin said.

Newman said UCSF is “neutral” on the landmarking proposal, but “my colleagues and I are certainly sympathetic with its goals.” ...

Full story at <https://www.sfchronicle.com/bayarea/article/SF-supervisors-take-an-interest-in-preserving-WPA-15427125.php>

UCLA Rent Strike

Thursday, July 23, 2020



From the Bruin: *Dozens of university apartment tenants have withheld rent for months as part of a strike calling on UCLA to cancel rent because of concerns about housing costs amid the COVID-19 pandemic. The strikers are demanding that UCLA cancel rent for the duration of the COVID-19 pandemic, make housing affordable and protect tenants who are unable to pay rent.*

The UCLA Tenants' Union, the newly formed union of university apartment residents who organized the strike, sent these demands and testimonials of tenants' struggles to pay rent in an April letter to Chancellor Gene Block and other UCLA administrators. As of May, more than 100 university apartment tenants agreed to withhold rent.

However, UCLA Housing needs funds to continue housing operations and is unable to cancel rent, said Assistant Vice Chancellors Suzanne Seplow and Peter Angelis in a statement addressed to the union and the University Apartments South Resident Association. The UASRA is not organizing the strike, but it supports the cause, said UASRA President Marbet Munoz, a university apartment resident and spouse of a third-year medical student.

UCLA Housing will not place academic records holds on tenants who can't pay rent during the pandemic, but tenants are still obligated to pay for all outstanding rent once "safer-at-home" orders are lifted, the statement read. UCLA Housing will also continue to increase rent costs, according to the statement. UCLA Housing increases housing rates yearly to pay for rising costs to maintain buildings, utility expenses and employee wages and benefits, according to a separate UCLA Housing statement. Student housing rates will increase by 2% for the upcoming school year. Other University of California campuses canceled rent increases, including UC Santa Cruz's graduate and family student housing communities.

The union plans to send another letter signed by more than 50 tenants to the assistant vice chancellors to reassert its demands.

When the state first issued lockdown orders, many tenants expressed concerns about their uncertain financial situations and their ability to pay rent on UASRA's Facebook group, said Jessie Stoolman, one of the strike's organizers and an anthropology graduate student. These concerns sparked the idea to form the union and organize the strike by

early April, she added...

Full story at <https://dailybruin.com/2020/07/20/university-apartment-tenants-organize-rent-strike-call-on-ucla-for-financial-relief>

ICE has apparently not yet fully melted

Friday, July 24, 2020



Although it was widely reported that there had been a reversal on the Trump administration order banning international students from being in the U.S. if they were taking only online courses, apparently that issue has not been completely resolved.

From Inside Higher Ed: *A coalition of 17 states and the District of Columbia that filed a lawsuit challenging a Trump administration directive barring international students from taking exclusively online courses says they want to see more action from the government before they determine whether the rescission of that directive will satisfy their concerns. The Trump administration agreed to rescind the July 6 directive in response to a separate lawsuit filed by Harvard University and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, reverting to a policy issued in March that gave current students flexibility to take classes online for the duration of the COVID-19 pandemic.*

But a filing in the multistate lawsuit led by the state of Massachusetts notes that the government has not published formal notice of the revocation or amended a field manual for consular officials that directs them to reject visa applications from students whose course of study would be online. The filing also notes the continued lack of guidance around the implications of the rescission of the July 6 policy for new international students...

Full story at <https://www.insidehighered.com/quicktakes/2020/07/24/states-demand-action-ice-international-students>

Esteban Torres to Receive UCLA Medal

Friday, July 24, 2020



Former Rep. Esteban Torres to Receive UCLA Medal

7-22-20, [MyNewsLA](#)

Former Rep. Esteban Torres, a one-time welder in an auto plant who became U.S. ambassador to UNESCO and director of the White House Office of Hispanic Affairs before serving eight terms in the House, will receive the UCLA Medal, the university's highest honor, in a virtual ceremony Wednesday. Torres was also a union organizer, artist and advocate for diversity in media as chair of the National Latino Media Council.

"At UCLA, we teach our students to care deeply and work hard, to seek common ground and prize the public good, to build bridges and create pathways for those who come behind," said UCLA Chancellor Gene Block. "Esteban Torres has done all of that and more."

Serving in the House from 1983-99, Torres was deputy majority whip, chairman of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus and the Consumer Affairs and Coinage Subcommittee of the Banking, Finance, and Urban Affairs Committee. Torres' anti-gang legislation became law as part of the 1994 Crime Bill. He authored the Truth-in-Savings Act of 1992 which simplified the disclosure of interest rates and conditions for savings accounts.

Torres was born in Miami, Arizona on Jan. 27, 1930. His family moved to East Los Angeles when he was 6 years old. He graduated from Garfield High School in 1949 then he joined the U.S. Army, serving in the Corps of Engineers during the Korean conflict. After being discharged in 1953 with the rank of sergeant first class, Torres used his benefits from the GI Bill to study at the Los Angeles Art Center.

"I thought about teaching in fine arts, but we had started raising a family and I had to go to work as a welder," Torres once said in an interview.

Torres was introduced to politics through his activism in the local branch of the United

Auto Workers. In 1958 his co-workers elected him chief steward of the Local 230. He was later appointed the UAW organizer for the western region of the United States. UAW President Walter Reuther selected Torres to be an international representative for the union, based in Washington, D.C. He was the director of the UAW's Inter-American Bureau for Caribbean and Latin American Affairs from 1964-68.

Torres returned to the Los Angeles area in 1968, founding The East Los Angeles Community Union, a community action organization that grew under his stewardship into one of the nation's largest antipoverty agencies. Torres unsuccessfully challenged Rep. George Danielson in 1974, then returned to Washington to be the UAW's assistant director for international affairs.

Torres was also chair of the board of LA Plaza de Cultura y Artes, the nonprofit museum and cultural center in downtown Los Angeles that serves as the only museum documenting and celebrating Los Angeles' Latino history. Some of Torres' sketches and sculpture have been displayed at the museum.

"We were all really amazed at how talented he was," said John Echeveste, the museum's CEO. "He kept all these sketchbooks of foreign dignitaries he had drawn in places he visited."

Torres' other honors includes having a high school in East Los Angeles named for him.

The 171 past recipients of the UCLA Medal include former Presidents Jimmy Carter and Bill Clinton, former Secretaries of State Madeleine Albright, Warren Christopher and Hillary Clinton, former Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres, former United Nations Secretary-Generals Kofi Annan and Ban Ki-Moon, former UCLA men's basketball coach John Wooden, Sir Lawrence Olivier, singer Ella Fitzgerald and former Los Angeles Mayors Tom Bradley and Antonio Villaraigosa.

Source: <https://mynews1a.com/crime/2020/07/22/former-rep-esteban-torres-to-receive-ucla-medal/>

Lawsuit over optional testing

Friday, July 24, 2020



From the Bruin: *A group of students and organizations filed a lawsuit Wednesday that argues the University of California's test-optional standardized testing policy discriminates against marginalized students.*

The plaintiffs state in the lawsuit that the UC's test-optional policy fails to address the disadvantages that disabled students, low-income students and students of color face and ask the court to prevent the UC from using test scores in any capacity.

The UC first suspended the standardized test requirement in April due to concerns surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic. The UC Board of Regents adopted a plan at their May meeting, which would make standardized tests optional through 2022, and remove testing from admissions criteria by 2024. However, the UC reserved the right to use any submitted scores for course placement or scholarship consideration.

The lawsuit states that students with disabilities face difficulties finding accommodations to take standardized tests, which has been exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic. Some students "must risk their lives" to take tests if they are particularly vulnerable to the coronavirus, according to the lawsuit. In addition, the suit states that UC admissions are test-optional in name only, because some low-income students and students of color face significant obstacles in taking and submitting test scores.

UC spokesperson Claire Doan said in an emailed statement that the new policy was intended to provide flexibility for students who may be struggling during the pandemic and give them full consideration for admission whether or not they are able to send a score. However, Doan said the suit was an attempt to leverage the court system to bypass analysis by University officials...

Full story at <https://dailybruin.com/2020/07/23/students-file-lawsuit-against-uc-for-test-optional-standardized-test-policy>

Online Spring

Saturday, July 25, 2020



Outgoing UC president Janet Napolitano was interviewed on Boston radio station WBUR, mainly on the politics, events in Portland, and other topics. She indicated planning is going on for online education in the "spring" due to the coronavirus crisis. (The interviewer assumed two semesters - fall and spring - although most of the campuses have three quarters.) See below:

On whether the University of California system will be fully online for the 2021 spring semester in addition to the fall semester

"We sincerely hope not. But we're planning through that scenario. And unless there is a vaccine, you know, it is a good possibility that the kind of remote or online learning that we will be using for the beginning of the fall will continue into the spring. It really depends on what the situation is and how we can safely reopen the campuses."

Full interview at <https://www.wbur.org/hereandnow/2020/07/24/janet-napolitano-federal-agents>

Constrained Bruins

Saturday, July 25, 2020



The coronavirus takes a toll on UCLA athletics:

UCLA athletes adjusting to campus workouts during time of coronavirus

Thuc Nhi Nguyen, 7-22-20, [LA Times](#)

Karina Rodriguez always looked forward to this time of the year. The senior defender on the UCLA women's soccer team understands how much of the team's success during the fall begins during the summer. So when UCLA reopened its campus to student-athletes for voluntary workouts last month, she was eager to join, even if things looked different. Thermometers, questionnaires and masks replaced hugs, high-fives and full team meetings. She couldn't get into the locker room. Access to the Acosta Training Center was limited. But waiting at the practice each day after Rodriguez completes a survey, scans into the building with her Bruin cards and gets her temperature taken is a familiar sight: her teammates. That one thing may make up for all of the strange differences.

"We might be six feet apart, but we're getting through it," Rodriguez said. "I'm thankful for anything they'll let us do together."

Athletes from UCLA's fall sports teams returned for voluntary workouts starting June 22 as the school began its return-to-play plan that divided athletes into four groups that would move through four phases, from returning to campus safely, starting voluntary workouts, organizing team practices and ultimately returning to competition. All football players and local athletes from Olympic sports could begin the process first. Basketball players were in the second group, with remaining fall Olympic sport athletes and all other local athletes following before all athletes would be welcomed back with the last group.

Almost a month since starting, UCLA has not advanced to the second group of athletes, and the first group is stalled at individual, voluntary workouts as California has struggled to contain the coronavirus outbreak. The state reported 12,807 new cases Wednesday, according to Gov. Gavin Newsom, a record for one day. L.A. Mayor Eric Garcetti has warned that the city is close to a second stay-at-home order, and L.A. County had 2,207 people hospitalized with confirmed coronavirus infections Monday, the fourth-highest

daily total. The peak came Saturday at 2,232...

Full story at <https://www.latimes.com/sports/ucla/story/2020-07-22/ucla-athletes-adjusting-to-campus-workouts-during-coronavirus>

Listen to the Regents Public Engagement & Development Committee...

Sunday, July 26, 2020



The Public Engagement & Development Committee of the Regents met on July 21 in an off-cycle meeting. There was only one public comment from a mother who wanted some adjustment in UC admissions for her son. Much discussion occurred of what Regents could and could not do now that the full board has endorsed two ballot propositions that will appear on the November ballot. One would repeal Prop 209's ban on affirmative action. The other would provide renewed funding for stem cell research via a bond measure.

There appeared to be a discrepancy between the legal advice on advocacy that was given by UC lawyers and what some Regents were hearing from other lawyers, with the latter suggesting more strict limitations. After that topic, there was discussion of voter drives (general "get-out-the-vote" efforts) and lobbying for funding from Washington related to the coronavirus crisis and from Sacramento.

You can hear the session - which was conducted on Zoom - at the link below:

or direct to:

<https://archive.org/details/regents-public-engagement-and-development-committee-7-21-20>

ICE has apparently not yet fully melted - Part 2

Sunday, July 26, 2020



From USA Today (but from yesterday): *Traditionally — when there's not a pandemic —international students have been barred from taking more than one online course each semester. ICE allowed foreign students to stay in the U.S. when classes went online in March, but has feuded with universities about what to do about students now that colleges are again going online this fall, as the pandemic persists. The guidance issued Friday makes it clear that new international students looking to study in America will need to enroll in an institution offering at least some in-person classes , even if their veteran peers can take only online courses . ICE did say new international students would likely be able to enroll at universities that were offering a mixture of in-person and online classes, and they can stay in the country if their college switches to online-only instruction in the middle of the semester. The guidance will likely be disruptive to universities. These institutions often try to recruit international students because they provide cultural diversity and often pay full-price tuition. And as the fall semester draws closer, more and more institutions have announced plans to offer only digital instruction due to the continued spread of coronavirus nationally. Given their population density — with crowded classrooms, dorms and dining facilities — college campuses are especially susceptible to the rapid transmission of the virus... Full story at: <https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/education/2020/07/24/college-student-visa-ice-trump-covid-rule/5504422002/>*

Demonstrations in Westwood Yesterday

Monday, July 27, 2020



Various groups demonstrated in Westwood yesterday. There were also counter-demonstrators at one point. Below is a compilation video made from clips taken by the [Daily Bruin](#):

or direct to <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oPwB1SDRNIs>

Telescope Info for the Regents Now on Agenda

Monday, July 27, 2020



We noted in a prior blog post that the Regents are schedule to discuss the Hawaiian telescope (Thirty Meter Telescope or TMT) on Thursday. We also noted that it was odd that the topic was listed, but with no attachment, particularly because of the controversy surrounding the project. The item is on the agenda in part because Regents chair John P é rez in an earlier meeting promised it would be discussed at some point in response to public comments by opponents.

There is now an attachment. Most of it is devoted to the history, potential uses of, and costs of the telescope. But it also contains information on the controversy in Hawaii:

... The TMT project (Project) has engaged with the local community in Hawaii for more than a decade, working with the Native Hawaiian cultural practitioners to identify design choices for the TMT that minimize adverse impacts on Maunakea while creating local programs for Big Island students and teachers that provide educational and STEM workforce development benefits. The TMT project also agreed to paying substantial annual rent that provides resources for stewardship of the Science Reserve at Maunakea. Many in Hawaii, including some in the Native Hawaiian community, saw the TMT approach as setting a new higher standard for developing a project within Hawaii by integrating local and cultural interests into the fabric of the project.

Nevertheless, there is a group of peaceful opponents (primarily comprised of Native Hawaiians) who are strongly opposed to the Project. They have taken legal and other actions, including road blockades, social media and grassroots campaigns, to prevent the Project from being able to access Maunakea to begin construction. This has resulted in a significant delay in the Project that was slated to begin construction in 2015. Before Covid-19 travel restrictions were imposed, members of the Project team and TIO Board were involved in a mediation process called ho'oponopono with various Native Hawaiian elders. Although there is hope that ho'oponopono will result in some level of reconciliation with the larger Native Hawaiian community, it is not reasonable to expect the process to ever result in full support of the project. The possible contraction and concept of TMT on Maunakea has become a rallying symbol for many of the historical and current injustices

that affect Native Hawaiians, even though it is unrelated to these real and serious issues...

Full document at <https://regents.universityofcalifornia.edu/regmeet/july20/b2.pdf>.

Meanwhile, news reports from Hawaii indicate that there will not be any construction related to the TMT until 2021:

... Gordon Squires, vice president of external affairs for the TMT International Observatory, announced on Hawaii News Now Sunrise that construction will probably not happen until sometime after spring or summer of 2021.

"With the pandemic and other factors that have come in, winter seems like a long ways away, but it's not that far away and for us to resume construction activities on site, winter on Mauna Kea just isn't feasible," Squires said. Despite this, Squires said, "We're absolutely committed to finding a way forward in Hawaii." ...

Full story at <https://www.hawaiinewsnow.com/2020/07/15/construction-tmt-project-wont-start-until-after-spring-or-summer/>.

It should be noted that the agenda lists the telescope as a discussion item, so no decision should be expected at this meeting.

Admissions Scandal: Remember It? - Part 2

Tuesday, July 28, 2020



The admissions scandal - UCLA edition - continues.* From the LA Times:

A former UCLA men's soccer coach pleaded guilty Monday to accepting \$200,000 in bribes to help two students get into the school as recruits. Jorge Salcedo, 47, admitted to participating in the college admissions bribery scheme involving TV celebrities, other wealthy parents and elite universities across the country. He agreed in April to enter the guilty pleas. Salcedo was paid \$100,000 to help California couple Bruce and Davina Isackson get their daughter into UCLA as a bogus soccer recruit, prosecutors said. The Isacksons have also pleaded guilty and have been cooperating with authorities in the hope of getting a lighter sentence. Salcedo also took a \$100,000 bribe from the admissions consultant at the center of the scheme, William "Rick" Singer, to "recruit" the son of Xiaoning Sui, of Surrey, Canada, to his team, authorities said. Singer and Sui have also pleaded guilty...

Full story at <https://www.latimes.com/world-nation/story/2020-07-27/ex-ucla-coach-pleads-guilty-to-accepting-200k-in-bribes>

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*Earlier post at <http://uclafacultyassociation.blogspot.com/2020/04/admissions-scandal-remember-it.html>

Well, we haven't passed the mayo, but...

Tuesday, July 28, 2020



U.S. News ranks the top hospitals in the nation:

1. Mayo Clinic, Rochester, Minnesota
2. Cleveland Clinic
3. Johns Hopkins Hospital, Baltimore
- 4 (tie). New York-Presbyterian Hospital-Columbia and Cornell, New York
- 4 (tie). UCLA Medical Center, Los Angeles**
6. Massachusetts General Hospital, Boston
7. Cedars-Sinai Medical Center, Los Angeles
8. UCSF Medical Center, San Francisco
9. NYU Langone Hospitals, New York
10. Northwestern Memorial Hospital, Chicago
11. University of Michigan Hospitals-Michigan Medicine, Ann Arbor
12. Brigham and Women's Hospital, Boston
13. Stanford Health Care-Stanford Hospital, Stanford, California
14. Mount Sinai Hospital, New York
15. Hospitals of the University of Pennsylvania-Penn Presbyterian, Philadelphia
16. Mayo Clinic-Phoenix
17. Rush University Medical Center, Chicago
- 18 (tie). Barnes-Jewish Hospital, St. Louis
- 18 (tie). Keck Hospital of USC, Los Angeles
20. Houston Methodist Hospital

Source: <https://health.usnews.com/health-care/best-hospitals/articles/best-hospitals-honor-roll-and-overview>

Dorm Alone

Tuesday, July 28, 2020



From the Bruin: *UCLA Housing will only offer single occupancy rooms on campus in the fall, UCLA Housing announced in a tweet Friday. Students who received offers for double occupancy rooms will be reassigned to a single occupancy room and possibly a new building, according to the tweet. Housing costs for students reassigned to singles will remain the same as stated on their original contract, UCLA Housing added. UCLA Housing said in the tweet that the decision will not affect students offered single occupancy rooms. UCLA Housing previously limited housing offers to only double and single occupancy rooms...*

Full story at <https://dailybruin.com/2020/07/24/ucla-housing-to-offer-only-single-occupancy-rooms-on-the-hill-for-fall-quarter>

Note: It remains unclear what the benefit is of having students sitting alone in a dorm room doing online courses as opposed to sitting at home doing online courses.

Regents Yesterday - Interim Report

Wednesday, July 29, 2020



Pre-Zoom Regents The Regents' Investments Committee and Special Committee on Basic Needs met yesterday afternoon. However, the official recording on YouTube is currently resisting downloading so yours truly cannot capture the audio. This situation may change later in the day. However, as a backup, he is making a real-time recording (almost 4 hours). Until the audio can be mounted, below is an interim summary of what went on from the [Daily Cal](#). A report with audio will be mounted later.

...During the Investments Committee meeting's public comment session, multiple speakers emphasized the importance of budget allocation for diversity and inclusion purposes and expressed their opposition to the roughly \$140 million spent on UCPD. Speakers advocated for diverting the funding to students and campus employees. Later, the Special Committee on Basic Needs turned to focus on student financial aid, with UC Student Financial Support Director Shawn Brick describing plans for the future of financial aid letters.

Brick mentioned that his office wants to ensure the financial aid information students receive once they are accepted aligns among UC campuses, in order for students to compare offers. He added that his office is working on a mobile method for incoming and continuing students to access their financial aid forms and review their offers.

With the announcement that UC campuses will no longer consider the SAT and ACT in the admissions process, Brick said the UC Academic Senate will be restructuring merit scholarships that previously depended on these scores.

Multiple regents broached the topic of making financial aid more accessible and comprehensible for first-generation UC students, as well as creating a unified process for students to compare financial aid packages. Alumni Regent Debby Stegura discussed how the financial aid emails and information the UC system sends have jargon that might not be easily understood. The regents also discussed the lack of translations available.

"Even a simple barrier of language is a huge problem," said Student Regent-designate and UC Berkeley student Alexis Zaragoza at the meeting.

Zaragoza shared her personal experiences and proposed improvements for financial aid award letters to holistically cover the cost of attendance. She suggested including the cost of living off campus and how the cost of rent differs among UC campuses. In

addition, Zaragoza mentioned the confusion that can occur when lumping financial aid offers with loan offers and how little explanation is given to differentiate between the two.

“UC Merced’s financial aid offer letter is cited in the New America report as a model of how to explain work-study,” the meeting’s agenda states.

Zaragoza said she thinks it is necessary to expand UC Merced’s model to other campuses.

Alumni Regent-designate Cheryl Lott said without extensive explanations included, many incoming students do not have an accurate picture of how to finance their education or future living costs.

“I don’t know if all of our students know that, coming in as 18-year-old freshmen,” Lott said at the meeting.

According to the agenda, the next steps include meeting with financial aid directors from all campuses and reviewing the recommendations made.

Full story at <https://www.dailycal.org/2020/07/29/uc-board-of-regents-discusses-student-financial-aid-letters/>

Chancellor Selection Issue to Come Up at Regents

Wednesday, July 29, 2020



Teresa Watanabe of the [LA Times](#) reports on an issue related to a change in the methodology of chancellor selection that will come up later today at the Regents:

In a highly unusual protest, University of California faculty leaders are collectively opposing a proposal to alter the search process for campus chancellors, which they believe will significantly reduce their role and potentially affect the quality of the UC system. Twenty past Academic Senate chairs, who have served since 1994, have signed a letter asking UC Board of Regents members to reject the proposal, which will be debated Wednesday at the board's online meeting. The Academic Council of current leaders has expressed similar concerns, saying the search process has resulted in diverse and "stellar recent recruitments," according to a letter by Chair Kum-Kum Bhavnani to outgoing UC President Janet Napolitano.

The last four chancellors hired have been white women to head UC Berkeley and Santa Cruz, a Black male leader at Davis and a Latino at Merced. The other six campus chancellors are men: Asian Americans at Santa Barbara and San Diego and white leaders at UCLA, San Francisco, Irvine and Riverside. Regent Lark Park, chair of the group of five board members who crafted the proposal, said the intent was to improve the process by widening public input, increasing the diversity of candidates and minimizing bias and inefficiencies.

The recommendations, she said in an email, "are fundamentally about being more inclusive. It's about having better communication, greater efficiency and accountability, and engaging the broader UC community with humility."

But two of the proposal's 17 recommendations have sparked a firestorm among faculty. One would move the role of screening candidates from the faculty to an outside search firm. At present, five faculty members of the 17-member search committee assess the qualifications of hundreds of potential candidates submitted by the search firm and others. They then recommend at least five promising candidates to fellow committee members, who include the UC president, board chair, other regents, students, alumni and staff. The president then selects a candidate to recommend for approval by the full board.

The proposal did not clearly explain why screening should be moved to the search firm, but a report commissioned by Park's group included criticism that faculty could be

barriers to diverse searches and too narrowly focused on candidates' academic credentials, with less focus on other qualities, such as leadership or vision. The report was based on a survey of 36 former members of search committees and more than 40 interviews with people inside and outside of UC.

George Blumenthal, a former UC Santa Cruz chancellor who signed the protest letter as a past Academic Senate chair, said robust faculty involvement was critical to insuring quality and excellence at UC.

"Faculty buy-in is crucial to the success of a chancellor, and any policy change that suggest that the faculty have a lesser role to play in selection will inevitably lead to a lesser faculty investment in the success of an appointee," the protest letter said.

The proposal also would require the UC president to obtain approval from the search committee's regents before directly recommending a choice to the full board, as is now the case. That change would "fundamentally undercut the authority of the president in selecting chancellors," the past Academic Senate chairs wrote.

Faculty members also took umbrage at the working group's report, saying the methodology was flawed and the opinions expressed were off-base...

Full story at <https://www.latimes.com/california/story/2020-07-29/uc-faculty-mount-collective-protest-over-proposal-to-reduce-their-role-in-chancellor-searches>

The proposal to change the chancellor-selection methodology is at:
<https://regents.universityofcalifornia.edu/regmeet/july20/g8attach1.pdf>

Comment: What is playing out here is the echo of Jerry Brown, who appointed several new Regents. Brown was famously skeptical of UC for complex personal reasons and faculty as an institution in particular. An earlier manifestation this year was the Regents' action in soliciting a research report on use of the SAT/ACT and then ignoring it.

Art and Music Donation

Wednesday, July 29, 2020



We always like to take note from time to time of donations to the university that don't involve bricks and mortar but instead fund research, teaching, and students. From the LA Times:

At a time when universities and arts organizations across the U.S. are struggling with dwindling donations, the UCLA School of the Arts and Architecture has received \$2.9 million from the late artist and philanthropist Elaine Krown Klein.

The gift, the university announced Wednesday, will go toward the Elaine Krown Klein Fine Arts Scholarship Fund. Klein, who died Jan. 5, and her late husband, Leo Klein, established the fund in 1986. Students at the university's Herb Alpert School of Music will benefit from the funds as well.

"Elaine has been so generous for so many years and has had such an impact on so many students across all the creative fields," Brett Steele, dean of the arts and architecture school, said in an interview. "[Her gift] makes it possible for students who couldn't otherwise attend a school like ours to join a group of colleagues and peers and esteemed faculty and have that as their formative experience in the arts. And it's important for the school. It adds diversity of voices and experiences within these programs."

UCLA began awarding scholarships from the fund, now valued at more than \$4 million, in 1989. It has supported more than 200 young artists, musicians, dancers, architects and designers, including dancer-choreographer Kevin Williamson and artists Meleko Mokgosi and Shana Lutker...

Full story at <https://www.latimes.com/entertainment-arts/story/2020-07-29/ucla-school-arts-architecture-scholarship-fund>

Listen to the Regents Meeting of July 28, 2020

Thursday, July 30, 2020



Yesterday we posted an interim summary of goings on at the Regents this past Tuesday.* The meeting actually contained two sessions: the Investments Committee and the Special Committee on Basic Needs.

The Investments Committee started with public comments. Speakers touched on the UC Police Department, mental health, abortion issues, Green New Deal and fossil fuels, the Hawaiian telescope, a suggestion that any pay cuts should be higher at the higher income levels, nurse testing and staffing, labor relations issues, layoffs, anti-Semitism, intellectual property related to coronavirus research, and the UC-Santa Cruz grad student strike.

At the Investments Committee there was a review of returns on the UC portfolio of \$130 billion (pension, endowment, etc.) The pension fund earned only 1.7% during the year ended June 2020, well below the target rate. There was substantial discussion of a new annuity option to be rolled out on a voluntary basis in view of the fact that new employees may have only defined-contribution pension income. The annuity option would be opt-in rather than opt-out.

At Basic Needs, much of the discussion involved letters by which UC campuses make offers of financial aid and the need for clarity of such offers.

You can hear the July 28th sessions at the link below:

or direct to:

<https://archive.org/details/regents-7-28-20>.

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* <https://uclafacultyassociation.blogspot.com/2020/07/regents-yesterday-interim-report.html>.

Listen to the Morning Session of the Regents: July 29, 2020

Thursday, July 30, 2020



I won't bother you with the technical problems that can arise in downloading Regents sessions, except to remind you that it takes time. Because of the way they are placed on YouTube, sometimes it involves real-time recording, i.e., each one hour of meeting time involves one hour of recording time. Sometimes it is possible to download directly and convert to audio.

In any case, we'll try to catch up with the Regents as best we can. And we note for the umpteenth time that if the Regents preserved their recordings indefinitely rather than only for one year, it would not be necessary to separately archive them.

The session on the morning of July 29th involved first the full board and then meetings of the Health Services Committee and the National Labs Committee. Public comments at the full board mirrored those of the day before in large part. They included labor relations issues, the UC Police Department, undocumented immigrant services, disabled student services, outsourcing, layoffs, intellectual property related to the coronavirus, abortion issues, nurse staffing, and the Hawaiian telescope.

The full board meeting itself featured remarks by board chair Pérez, UC prez Napolitano (giving her last report as prez), and the UC undergrad representative. Today (which was tomorrow then), there is due to be full board discussion of the Hawaiian telescope project. Pérez's remarks singled that item out and suggested that he favored cancelling the project. (That is, however, just the reading of yours truly; he didn't quite say so - and we will see today.)

At Health Services, Dr. Carrie Byington, Executive VP and head of UC Health, reported that UCLA and UC-San Diego would be involved in trials of the coronavirus vaccine being developed by the Moderna firm. However, she also said that she expected the virus problem to be with us until 2022 and suggested that plans for UC campus operations after this fall should be built on that expectation. She suggested in response to a question that winter in particular would be much the same as fall.

At National Labs, Regent Michael Cohen - who was budget director under Jerry Brown - expressed the view that fees for managing the labs received by UC should not be assumed to be available only for spending on the labs. Given the current distressed UC budget, Cohen indicated that the use of the fees should be part of general UC budget allocation discussions. He dissented, therefore, from the Committee's recommendation on the use of the fees.

You can hear the morning meeting at the link below:

or direct to:

<https://archive.org/details/regents-7-29-20am>.

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Note: A summary of the full day, not just the morning, is available from the Daily Cal at: <https://www.dailycal.org/2020/07/29/uc-board-of-regents-discusses-ucpd-chancellor-selection-process/>. One thing to note is that the meeting ran overtime and two committee meetings were delayed until today. So today's session will be a lengthy meeting.

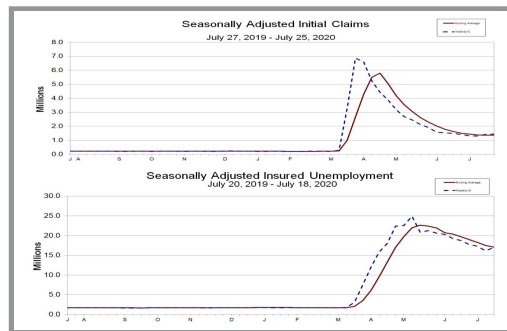
Stall Warning - Part 3

Thursday, July 30, 2020



You will have seen headlines about the incredible decline of real GDP in the second quarter. (If not, Google it.) However, we continue to look at new weekly claims for unemployment insurance as the most recent indicator. Such claims - as of the week ended last Saturday - at the national level on a seasonally-adjusted basis have been stuck at about 1.4 million for awhile which suggests a stall in the recovery. In terms of total folks receiving benefits, those data are available only without seasonal adjustment and with a one-week lag. California accounted for about a fifth of those individuals, way more than its proportionate share of the workforce. In short, no good news today.

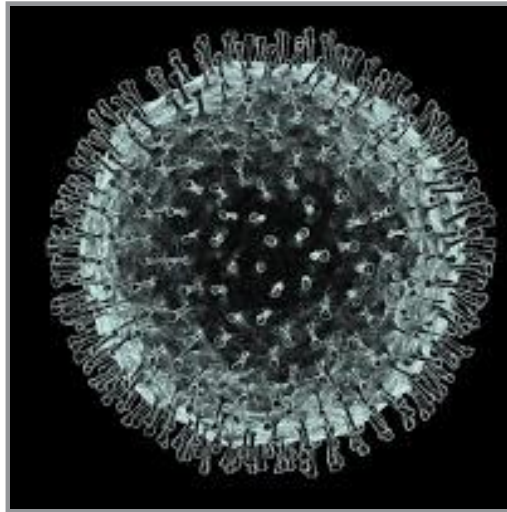
You can find the latest weekly claims data at <https://www.dol.gov/ui/data.pdf>.



[Click on image to enlarge and clarify.]

Coronavirus cases at UCLA

Thursday, July 30, 2020



Note: The total 153 below appears to be the sum of all past cases. How many people currently have active cases? What happened to the individuals identified in the past? Outcomes of those cases?

The number apparently excludes UCLA Health figures.

NBC-LA: As of Wednesday, 153 people among the UCLA campus community had reported confirmed cases of COVID-19 to the university, the Westwood-based institution of higher learning said in a statement.

"Consistent with the protocols for infectious disease response, anyone identified within our campus community as being at risk of exposure from these individuals will be notified if they need to be isolated or tested," the school said in a statement.

According to the university, information on previously confirmed campus cases was as follows:

July 29: Three staff members; one has not worked on campus since March 20, one since July 17 and the other since July 23.

July 28: A student who lives in off-campus, non-university-owned housing and has not been on campus since July 19.

July 25: Two staff members; one has not worked on campus since May 18, the other since July 21.

Three students who live in off-campus, non-university-owned housing; two have not been on campus since June 30 and one since July 17.

July 24: Two students. One lives in off-campus, university-owned housing and has not been on campus since July 21. One lives in on-campus housing and has been self-isolating since July 15.

July 23: Three students who live in off-campus, non-university-owned housing; one has not been on campus since March 14, one since March 23 and one since June 26.

July 22: A staff member who has not worked on campus since July 17.

Three students who live in off-campus, non–university-owned housing; one has not been on campus since March 15, once since April 20 and one since July 13.

The university pointed to the increased availability of testing for COVID-19 to help reveal more cases on campus and in local communities. The school urged people to keep distance from others, wear a mask and wash hands regularly.

Source: <https://www.nbclosangeles.com/news/coronavirus/153-people-among-ucla-campus-community-positive-with-covid-19-university-says/2404811/>

Note: The NY Times has a count of 101 for UCLA in a tabulation dated 7-28-2020: <https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2020/07/28/us/covid-19-colleges-universities.html>

Another Title IX ruling

Thursday, July 30, 2020



Ninth Circuit Adopts 'Simpler' Method for Accused Student Claims

July 30, 2020, [Inside Higher Ed](#)

The U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit delivered a win for students accused of sexual misconduct on July 29, reinforcing the use of a “far simpler standard” for judges to determine whether colleges discriminated against these students based on their gender while investigating them for sexual assault or harassment. Three federal circuit courts have now adopted the standard of “plausible inference,” as it is called, to rule on cases where a student claims their institution conducted a biased investigation against them using procedures developed under Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, the law that prohibits such discrimination at federally funded institutions. Under the standard, accused students must only “raise a plausible inference that the university discriminated” against them, which is less demanding than standards used in other circuits for similar claims.

The Second and Sixth Circuit courts, for example, have required accused students to show the outcome of the Title IX investigation into their alleged misconduct may be flawed or provide proof that “regardless of the student’s guilt or innocence, the severity of the penalty and/or the decision to initiate the proceeding was affected by the student’s gender,” said the Ninth Circuit’s ruling, which was written by Judge Milan Smith Jr. The “plausible inference” standard does not require the court to evaluate whether the original misconduct occurred or not, but that the college discriminated against the accused student at some point during the Title IX procedures.

In adopting this standard, the Ninth Circuit reversed an Arizona district court’s decision to dismiss a former Arizona State University student’s lawsuit against the state’s Board of Regents. David Otto Schwake, the student, argues he was discriminated against throughout the university’s investigation into his alleged sexual assault of a female student. Schwake’s evidence of alleged discrimination included a professor and the female student talking about the outcome of the investigation publicly before the student

had the chance to appeal his ban from a campus research lab.

Source: <https://www.insidehighered.com/news/2020/07/30/covid-19-roundup-nyt-counts-campus-cases-college-staff-worries-more-fall-changes>

Note: We have noted in the past that courts are schooled in the notion of due process and tend to reject procedures that seem not to accord with that concept. These kinds of decisions pre-date the recent rules promulgated by the Dept. of Education.

Listen to the Afternoon Session of the Regents: July 29, 2020

Friday, July 31, 2020



There were two major issues that came up in the afternoon of July 29th. The first was the UC Police Dept. which was discussed in Compliance and Audit. The second was a change in procedure for the selection of campus chancellors which was discussed in the Governance Committee.

Policing was discussed under the rather bland title of "community safety." Despite the name, which might have encompassed such things as fire and earthquake standards, the focus was entirely on the police. It was pointed out that if there were no UC police, local police would end up doing what the UC police do. However, the discussion never focused on a total abolition of the UC police. Rather, the focus was on alternative forms of crisis intervention (mental health crises), handling of protests, and restorative justice. There was some reference to the different needs of those campuses with health facilities. Finally, the meeting ended somewhat inclusively with a proposal to set up a "working group" to make police policy. There was then some back and forth as to whether policing function and thus whether issues of policing should be resolved there rather than at the Regental level. Some chancellors, however, suggested that having some broad guidelines systemwide might be a Good Thing. It was unclear at the end what the next step would be.

The Governance Committee's discussion ended up revolving around the [LA Times](#) article indicating that many past Academic Council chairs were greatly concerned by the proposal to reduced the role of faculty in selection of chancellors. As we have noted in an earlier post, the ghost of Jerry Brown and his general distrust of faculty and UC, hovered over the session.* Regent Park, who delivered the proposal and defended it, is a Brown appointee. Chair P é rez, after indicating he was annoyed that the letter of the past Council chairs was leaked to the [LA Times](#), indicated some reservation about just rolling ahead given the apparent faculty concerns. Again, as with policing, the matter ended somewhat inconclusively.

You can hear the session at the link below:

or direct to <https://archive.org/details/regents-afternoon-7-29-20>.

The Daily Cal summary which we linked to yesterday covered both the morning and afternoon of July 29th. We have already posted our summary of the morning. But here is the Daily Cal summary again:

<https://www.dailycal.org/2020/07/29/uc-board-of-regents-discusses-ucpd-chancellor-selection-process/>

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* <http://uclafacultyassociation.blogspot.com/2020/07/chancellor-selection-issue-to-come-up.html>

Listen to the Morning Session of the Regents: July 30, 2020

Friday, July 31, 2020



The morning session of the Regents on July 30th included both the full board and the Finance and Capital Strategies Committee which had been held over from the previous day due to time constraints. It began with public comments covering layoffs, the Hawaiian telescope (TMT = Thirty Meter Telescope), racism, campus policing, SAT/ACT, coronavirus, and labor relations. Public comments were followed by reports from student representatives, various awards, and a presentation and discussion of the accountability report. That report dealt with such matters as UC response to the coronavirus, women in higher education, graduation rates, etc.

After a brief pause, the TMT presentation occurred presented and chaired by Chancellor Yang of UC-Santa Barbara. Reports from the astronomer perspective dealt with the potential scientific advances that could be made by the TMT. There were statements that a quarter of the astrophysics community is at UC and without TMT UC would lose its eminence in the field. Three native Hawaiians spoke against the project on religious and cultural grounds. Two native Hawaiians spoke in favor; one an astronomy student and the other a traditional mariner who spoke about tradition use of stars by Hawaiians in navigation. After much discussion, the matter was simply deferred. While some of the native Hawaiians and the public commentators who opposed the project demanded the board vote immediately to kill or move the project, that did not happen (nor could it under Regental rules, since the agenda listed TMT as a discussion item).

Comment: Remarks by Chair Pérez prior to the session indicated skepticism about the project in Hawaii. He focused on the issue of location and alternative location - with the alternative (as blog readers will know) being in the Canary Islands. At one point, it was said that while the alternative was less good because some of the southern sky could not be seen, "90%" of the work that could be done in Hawaii could be done at the alternative location. It isn't clear what "90%" means, but to a person with a political background - and thus used to compromise - such as Pérez, getting 90% of what you want would sound pretty good. Moreover, there is the practical matter that the powers-that-be in Hawaii from the governor on down seem - in the end - unwilling to confront the protesters who

physically block the construction. So, even if UC continues with the current plan (in Hawaii), it is not clear how the project would be built, given Hawaiian politics. It was supposed to be completed this year, but years of planning, litigation, and protests have not produced actual construction. A complication that was pointed out is that the project involves partners such as various foreign governments and also involves NSF. Everyone would have to agree to the alternative site, and it's not clear if that can happen.

Various capital projects were approved in Finance & Capital Strategies. A project to replace an older medical building at UC-Davis was subject to some questioning by Regent Makarechian who was concerned that the coronavirus was causing a rethink generally about architecture of offices and other structures. Although what was being requested was funding for planning, not actual construction, he wondered if the plans would have to be redone. He also asked about the general state of UC-Davis finances in the light of the current crisis. In the end, the planning funding was approved.

You can hear the morning program at the link below:

or direct to Part 1: <https://archive.org/details/regents-7-30-20am-part-2/Regents+7-30-20am+Part+1.WMA>

Part 2 (Starts with TMT discussion): <https://archive.org/details/regents-7-30-20am-part-2/Regents+7-30-20am+Part+2.WMA>

Note: The Daily Cal's summary of the TMT session is at:

<https://www.dailycal.org/2020/07/31/uc-board-of-regents-discusses-thirty-meter-telescope-on-maunakea/>

Buried Lede on ASUCLA?

Saturday, August 01, 2020



The Bruin has an article about ASUCLA's taking a federal Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) loan to preserve employment. It is not surprising that the organization is losing money in the current situation with courses online and relatively few people (and thus customers) on campus. However, the article - buried in the text - indicates that *before* the coronavirus crisis, ASUCLA was also losing money. Excerpt below:

Associated Students UCLA received a \$4.7 million loan from the federal government, but still faces millions of dollars in lost revenue due to the COVID-19 pandemic, ASUCLA executives said. ASUCLA received the loan under the Paycheck Protection Program, which is run by the United States Small Business Administration to encourage small businesses to keep workers employed during the pandemic.

ASUCLA lost millions of dollars in revenue during the COVID-19 pandemic, said Michelle Moyer, the director of Business Affairs and Compliance for ASUCLA, in an emailed statement. As students transitioned to online classes and employees started working remotely in March, ASUCLA lost several of their primary sources of income, including sales from campus stores, events scheduled at Ackerman Union and the licensing of commercial products with the UCLA name, Moyer said.

Moyer said in May, ASUCLA faced a year-to-date net loss of \$5.7 million. By June, ASUCLA expects their year-to-date income to be \$14 million less than that of the 2018-2019 fiscal year, Moyer added.

Siena Villegas, a student representative on the ASUCLA Board of Directors, said ASUCLA expects to run a year-to-date deficit of \$17.6 million at the end of July, \$14 million more than that of the 2018-2019 fiscal year. ===== Comment: \$17.6 million - \$14 million = loss of \$3.6 million during the pre-coronavirus 2018-19 fiscal year. ===== ASUCLA will be able to continue paying employees with using the PPP loan, said Noe Garcia, the USAC financial supports commissioner. He added that ASUCLA is unsure how long it can continue paying its employees since most ASUCLA services will not resume operations in the fall...

Full story at <https://dailybruin.com/2020/07/28/asucla-faces-lost-revenue-from-pandemic-receives-government-loan>

"Severe and Deep Disappointment" in Regents' Action

Saturday, August 01, 2020



Professor Kum-Kum Bhavnani, the faculty representative to the Regents, expressed "**severe and deep disappointment**" in the Regents' action last Thursday in modifying the procedures for chancellor selection on campuses to diminish the faculty's role in the process. An article appeared in the Los Angeles Times noting that past Academic Council chairs had written a strong statement protesting the change. As we have previously noted on this blog, the issue was reported to the Governance Committee which endorsed it after hearing of the faculty concerns. The full Board of Regents voted against postponing the changes for discussion at the September meeting, despite Prof. Bhavnani's request. Outgoing UC president Napolitano was among the minority voting to postpone. Having defeated the postponement, the full board then endorsed the changes with one abstention.

We will post a fuller summary of the Thursday afternoon session of the Regents at which these actions occurred tomorrow with the usual audio links. However, a video of Prof. Bhavnani's remarks can be seen below:

or direct to <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9bbsF9WaPx8>

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For previous posts on this matter, see:

<http://uclafacultyassociation.blogspot.com/2020/07/listen-to-afternoon-session-of-regents.html>

and

<http://uclafacultyassociation.blogspot.com/2020/07/chancellor-selection-issue-to-come-up.html>

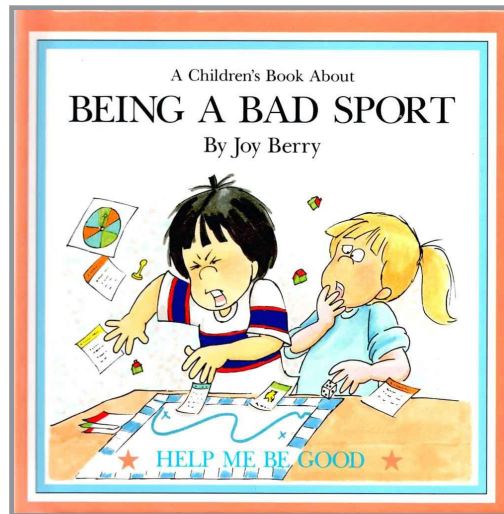
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We have noted in prior posts that what appears to be in the background is the ghost of former Governor Jerry Brown who was always distrustful of faculty and - indeed - UC, for personal reasons. It was interesting that it was the pre-Brown appointees who expressed reservations about just rolling ahead and not postponing. The Brown appointees had no reservations and, indeed, one of them - Regent Park - chaired the group that came up with the recommendations.

The Regents are generally reluctant to have split votes. So, in the end after the postponement was defeated, all but one voted to adopt the changes. There was one abstention by Regent Zettel.

Bad Sport

Sunday, August 02, 2020



After ending UCLA contract, Under Armour wants to be 'smarter' with marketing deals

By Holden Wilen, [Baltimore Business Journal](#), Jul 31, 2020

*Under Armour Inc. CEO Patrik Frisk said Friday the **sportswear maker** will continue to "make [its] presence felt" through marketing despite prematurely pulling out of a record-breaking sponsorship contract with UCLA.*

Some observers saw Baltimore-based Under Armour's decision to terminate the 10-year, \$280 million deal as a signal the company planned to get out of the college athletics space altogether. Under Armour also ended its 10-year, \$86 million deal with the University of California, Berkeley.

At the time, Under Armour (NYSE: UAA) argued it has been paying for marketing benefits it has not received. College sports have been on hiatus since March because of the Covid-19 pandemic. On Friday, as he discussed Under Armour's second quarter financial results, Frisk seemed to hint the brand pulled out of the deals because they weren't working.

"We have talked about that as part of our restructuring we continue to look at things that make sense and might not make sense for us in that journey going forward, and we are making decisions accordingly," Frisk said. "The reality is that if you want to have an asset you've got to be able to activate it."

Under Armour signed the deals with UCLA and Cal in 2016 on the heels of three other major agreements by Nike with the University of Michigan, the University of Texas and Ohio State University. At the time, Under Armour was also in the midst of a streak of 26 consecutive quarters with at least 20% sales growth.

*In the years since, Under Armour's sales have slowed and profitability has declined. **The Covid-19 pandemic seems to have presented an opportunity for the sportswear maker to***

get out of deals, some of which experts said it overpaid for. UCLA and Cal could take legal action to try and prevent the terminations.*

Frisk said Under Armour has been becoming "smarter" with its investments and how they can strengthen the brand. Chief Financial Officer David Bergman said the company has prioritized returns on investments...

Full story at <https://www.bizjournals.com/baltimore/news/2020/07/31/under-armour-ceo-sheds-light-on-sponsorship-deals.html>

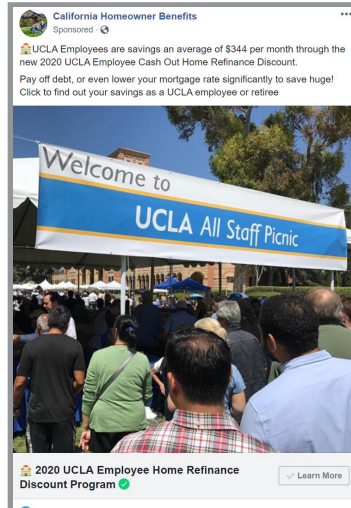
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*Our previous post on this matter back in June indicated that despite the coronavirus crisis as a possible rationale for cancellation of the contract, UCLA was "exploring" options - presumably including legal options. See:

<http://uclafacultyassociation.blogspot.com/2020/06/disappearing-money.html>

Not Everything That Says UCLA Comes from UCLA

Monday, August 03, 2020



The ad above - from Facebook - may appear to be from some official UCLA program. It isn't. Anyone can grab a photo from the UCLA campus and run an ad. Yours truly doesn't know one way or the other whether you can get a good deal from whoever is advertising. But you should know that you are not dealing with an official university program if you respond.

The Starting Date for Football Seems to be Up in the Air

Monday, August 03, 2020



From MyNewsLA: *USC and UCLA are scheduled to meet Sept. 26 at the Rose Bowl to open their football seasons under the revised schedule announced by the Pac-12 Conference, although the date could be changed, the universities' athletic directors said.*

"Though we are progressing toward the start of our respective seasons, at this time, we do not have the necessary county and state clearances to begin competitions," USC athletic director Mike Bohn and UCLA athletic director Martin Jarmond said in a joint statement after the schedule was released Friday.

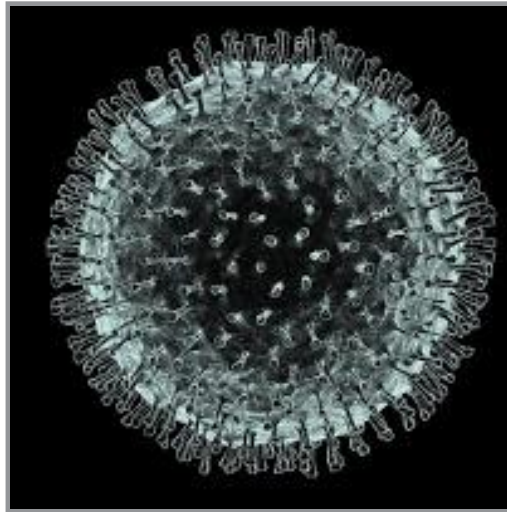
"Our football schedules create the opportunity for us to shift our season-opening contest to open dates later in the season (Oct. 31 and Dec. 12), if necessary. UCLA and USC are in absolute alignment, and we remain in regular communication with state, local and university officials. We will continue to follow their guidance with the utmost regard for the health and safety of our student-athletes."

In a letter to donors obtained by the Los Angeles Times, Bohn wrote it was "likely" the game would be moved to a later date...

Full story at <https://mynews1a.com/education/2020/08/02/usc-ucla-set-to-meet-to-open-football-season-2/>

Fall Quarter Update

Monday, August 03, 2020



From an email circulated earlier today: Dear Bruin Community: In our June fall planning message, we announced that we hoped to offer 15% to 20% of our fall courses in person or in a hybrid format, knowing that those plans could change based on the progression of the pandemic. With Los Angeles County experiencing a dramatic rise in COVID-19 infections and hospitalizations, **we have found it necessary to adjust our plans to reduce the health risks to our campus community.** Following close consultation with public health authorities and as recommended by the UCLA COVID-19 Future Planning Task Force, we have developed the revised approach to fall term instruction outlined below. These plans remain contingent on state and county authorization to resume in-person instruction, and while we hope that we will not need to alter our plans further, it is possible that they could change given the evolving nature of the pandemic and shifting public health directives. I recognize how challenging the past few months have been for so many in our community and am immensely grateful for the flexibility and resilience that you have shown throughout this time. These are qualities that I hope we Bruins can continue to draw on as we enter a truly unique academic year. Fall Courses **UCLA is now planning to offer about 8% of fall term courses in person or using a hybrid model, with the remaining vast majority delivered remotely.** Additionally, nearly all classes will shift to remote delivery after Thanksgiving — with limited exceptions to be approved by my office — to minimize public health risks associated with travel and a potential virus resurgence. Schools and academic departments are currently working to update their offerings to provide a range of remote courses and to ensure that all students have access to the classes they need to make progress toward their academic degrees. Class locations on student study lists and the schedule of classes will be updated by the end of this week to reflect these changes. The few courses that will still be conducted on campus include certain lab, studio, and clinical courses, as well as other hands-on classes that would be effectively impossible to offer remotely. Students should confirm the status and availability of these courses with their school or departmental advisers. Even in the case of these in-person courses, we are working to offer remote alternatives wherever possible for students who are unable to come to campus. For those students who have limited access to the necessary technologies for remote learning, we remain committed to providing you with the assistance you need. UCLA has several programs that can help

with purchasing or borrowing laptops, wifi hotspots, and other devices. Please visit Bruin Resources and Tools for more information. We also encourage any student who may be facing financial hardship to reach out to our Economic Crisis Response Team for assistance. Over the coming weeks, faculty members will be working to augment and further refine their technological and pedagogical approaches to remote teaching and course development. We realize that remote instruction cannot replace the rich experience of living and learning on campus. Yet the dedication and ingenuity of our students, faculty, and staff over the past several months have demonstrated that together we can create robust and rewarding remote learning environments that continue to deliver many of the best aspects of UCLA's world-renowned education. This fall, the campus will also coordinate a wide variety of virtual activities and co-curricular programming so that students can deepen their connections to one another and to UCLA.

Housing and Dining We plan to accommodate about 5,000 students in on-campus residence halls and 1,500 students in university-owned and operated undergraduate apartments, with priority going to those with the greatest need. Residence hall occupancy is limited to one student per bedroom, and undergraduate apartments are limited to two students per bedroom. Certain buildings will be set aside for isolation of students who test positive for COVID-19 or who were in close contact with someone who tested positive and are required to quarantine. Housing offers continue to be made weekly as space becomes available. Students can cancel their housing contracts before September 16 without penalty. Dining facilities will be open for carry-out meals with limited seating and other safety precautions in place. Please visit UCLA Housing's COVID-19 information page for more information and answers to frequently asked questions. Health and Safety For those who do join us on campus, protocols and procedures will be in place to help us maintain a healthier and safer learning environment. Infection control measures will include physical distancing, de-densifying classrooms and other campus spaces, and frequent cleaning of residence halls and other facilities. In addition:

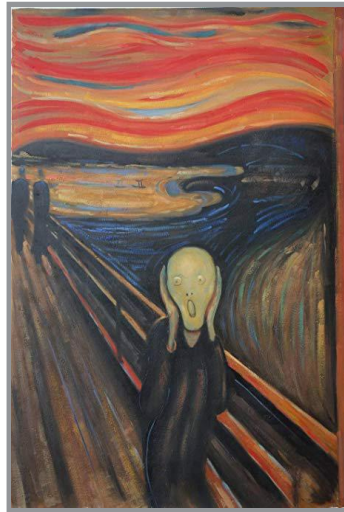
- **Cloth face coverings are required indoors and outdoors** for anyone on campus, per guidelines from local and state health authorities.
- **Daily symptom checks are required** for anyone coming to campus or living in on-campus housing. More information on the campus' symptom monitoring protocol is available online for staff and faculty performing non-healthcare work on campus (PDF) and for students (PDF).
- **Asymptomatic COVID-19 testing will be required** for all students living in university housing or participating in on-site or hybrid classes, as well as for faculty, staff, or teaching assistants involved in teaching on site. Tests will be provided at no cost, and contact tracing protocols will be in place when anyone tests positive.

International Students We recognize that international students have been severely affected by the COVID-19 crisis and new government policy directives. The UCLA Dashew Center for International Students and Scholars is working with campus partners to review recent directives and assess their impact, and will provide additional information to our international students this week. New and continuing international students should visit the Dashew Center's COVID-19 updates page for the latest information and answers to frequently asked questions. The Way Forward I know this is not the fall term any of us had hoped for and I understand that this news will be disappointing to many. However, these changes are necessary so that we can minimize the spread of COVID-19 while also delivering the quality education that is a hallmark of UCLA. The volatility of the pandemic has challenged us in ways we could not have imagined. I am deeply grateful for all you have done and will continue to do to ensure that UCLA's mission of outstanding education, research, and service endures. We will continue to update the community as news about fall scheduling, housing, and other campus matters becomes available. Please visit UCLA's COVID-19 resources page for the latest information on the

pandemic and Bruins Safe Online for campus safety protocols and guidelines. Above all else, be well and take good care. Sincerely, **Emily A. Carter** Executive Vice Chancellor and Provost

More Charges

Tuesday, August 04, 2020



From MyNewsLA: *An obstetrician-gynecologist formerly employed by UCLA now faces a total of 20 felony counts charging him with sexually assaulting seven patients between 2011 and 2018, the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office announced Monday. Dr. James Mason Heaps, 63, of Woodland Hills, initially faced charges involving two alleged victims. He pleaded not guilty to the newly filed charges Monday and was taken into custody and ordered to return to court on Sept. 15, when a date is expected to be set for a preliminary hearing. Bail was set at \$650,000, according to the District Attorney's Office.*

Heaps was charged last year with two counts of sexual battery by fraud and one count of sexual exploitation of patients, to which he also pleaded not guilty. The criminal complaint was amended to add eight additional counts of sexual battery by fraud, two additional counts of sexual exploitation of a patient and seven counts of sexual penetration of a person unconscious of the nature of the act by fraudulent representation. If convicted as charged, Heaps faces a possible maximum sentence of more than 67 years in prison.

The university previously confirmed that Heaps worked part-time from 1983 to 2010 at UCLA's student health center before being hired in 2014 by UCLA Health and held medical staff privileges at Ronald Reagan UCLA Medical Center from 1988 to 2018...

Full story at <https://mynews1a.com/crime/2020/08/03/more-sexual-assault-charges-filed-against-former-ucla-ob-gyn-2/>

NOTE: If you are unfamiliar with the case and its history, use the search engine for this blog and search for "Heaps" for earlier posts.

Very Frequent Testing?

Tuesday, August 04, 2020



Blog readers will have seen yesterday's posting on UCLA's decision to cut back on the (relatively few) in-person courses planned for fall quarter and on how students would be housed on campus.* We continue to note the paradox of students coming to campus, housed one-in-a-room, and sitting in those rooms doing online courses. Meanwhile, the faculty - who will be teaching those courses - will not generally be on campus as per the same posting. The posting - which reproduces an official email - references testing for coronavirus. The item below suggests that the testing of students referenced in that email should be quite frequent, which is expensive. So the question remains: What benefit is there for students to be on campus given the need for social distancing, frequent testing, etc.?

From *Inside Higher Ed*: *A new modeling study published Friday by researchers at Harvard and Yale Universities concluded that a safe way to bring college students back to campus this fall would be to test them for COVID-19 every two days using "a rapid, inexpensive, and even poorly sensitive" test, and to couple this testing with strict behavioral strategies to keep the virus's rate of transmission (Rt) -- the average number of individuals infected by a single contagious person -- below 2.5.*

Such a strategy, the authors wrote, "was estimated to yield a modest number of containable infections and to be cost-effective."

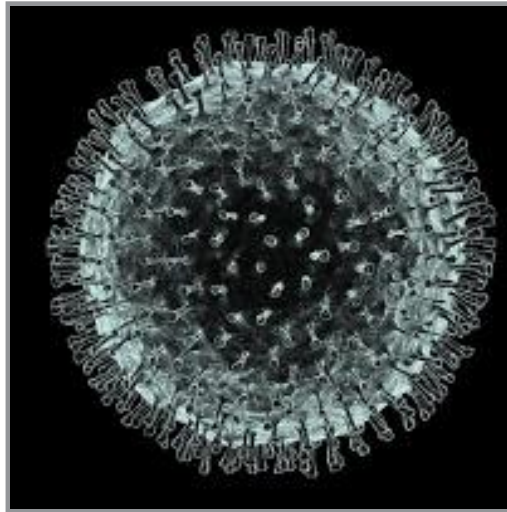
They added, "This sets a very high bar -- logistically, financially, and behaviorally -- that may be beyond the reach of many university administrators and the students in their care."

The study, "Assessment of SARS-CoV-2 Screening Strategies to Permit the Safe Reopening of College Campuses in the United States," appeared in JAMA Network Open, an open-access journal published by the American Medical Association...

Full story at <https://www.insidehighered.com/news/2020/08/03/study-recommends-testing-students-every-two-days-college-football-players-push-back> (Link to JAMA Network Open article included.) = = = *
<http://uclafacultyassociation.blogspot.com/2020/08/fall-quarter-update.html>

New Coronavirus Guidelines

Wednesday, August 05, 2020



Before reproducing the item below, we again note the paradox of having students in dorms (one in a room) when almost all classes are online. It simply adds to the potential for infection of essential workers who must be on campus and, in fact, requires more people to be involved in supervising students who in principle are to sit in their single rooms and do courses online. *From an email circulated late yesterday afternoon:* Dear Colleagues: I hope this important update finds you and your loved ones healthy and safe. UCLA has significantly revised our Standard Operating Procedure for Responding to COVID-19 Cases on the UCLA Campus (PDF). The document addresses the process for reporting cases in which an individual with COVID-19 has been on UCLA property (not including UCLA Health System facilities) within 48 hours prior to or during their symptomatic period or in which an asymptomatic individual receives a positive test result. I encourage you to review the revised procedures and share the above link with your teams. The standard operating procedure was first issued in April. The key revisions include:

- Incorporating the recently formed UCLA Exposure Management Team, which investigates confirmed COVID-19 cases and close contacts in coordination with the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health.
- Adding a new reporting process via the UCLA COVID Call Center (previously the UCLA Infectious Diseases Hotline), which retains the same phone number, 310-267-3300. COVID-19 case reporting shall be sent to a central email, covidcallcenter@mednet.ucla.edu.
 - Revising off-hour reporting instructions. **Please note:** Although this is not detailed in the document, the UCLA COVID Call Center has expanded its hours of operation to 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., seven days a week.
 - Adding procedures for third-party contract workers and essential visitors. **Please note:** Symptom monitoring requirements and associated protocols for invited third parties have also been developed. Details are provided in the UCLA Requirements for COVID-19 Symptom Monitoring for Third-party Contract Workers (PDF) and Essential Visitors (PDF).
- Further clarifying application of the standard operating procedure to incidents on UCLA property, including main campus and off-campus properties. (UCLA Health

buildings are excluded.)

- Emphasizing the eight-hour Cal/OSHA requirement to report to the UCLA Environment, Health & Safety Serious Injury hotline for cases involving overnight hospitalization. (The injury hotline is 310-825-9797.)
- Revising Appendix E: Courtesy Notification Letter Template.
- Adding Appendix F: Employee Notification Letter Template.

The standard operating procedure is designed to facilitate public Thank you for your continued understanding and cooperation as we update these procedures to help keep Bruins safer during this very challenging time. If you have any questions, please email covid19@ucla.edu.health mitigation measures and to promote the well-being of our Bruin community and of those who visit UCLA, as are our requirements for wearing a face covering while on campus, practicing physical distancing of at least 6 feet, completing daily symptom monitoring and washing hands frequently. You can find the standard operating procedure, symptom monitoring protocols and other protocols and procedures at Bruins Safe Online. Sincerely, **Michael J. Beck** Administrative Vice Chancellor

Taking a survey

Thursday, August 06, 2020



Grad students with school-age children are being affected by the continuation of online education in K-12 schools. UCLA is taking a survey to obtain more information on the impact. Note that the announcement seems to assume that local schools are doing a mix of online and in-person education. It appears, however, that only online education is planned.

August 3, 2020

Office of the Administrative Vice Chancellor and Graduate Division

To: Graduate Students and Postdoctoral Scholars

Dear Students and Postdoctoral Scholars:

The COVID-19 pandemic has underscored the critical importance of childcare and schools in our communities as a support system for parents who are working and pursuing degrees.

As some graduate students and postdocs begin to return to campus while others continue to study remotely, our early care and education centers are gradually reopening following new state health guidelines. Our on-campus schools, UCLA Lab School and Geffen Academy at UCLA, are working through plans for fall instruction. We can anticipate that surrounding independent schools and public school districts will likely include a mix of in-person and remote instruction. Given this new reality, we recognize that many of our graduate students and postdocs will have unmet needs for childcare or other types of dependent care.

In order to better understand the dependent care needs of graduate students and postdocs this fall, we ask you to complete a brief survey. It will take no more than 10 minutes to complete, and the results will allow us to explore options for providing additional childcare.

Please submit your feedback no later than Monday, August 17, 2020.

Thank you in advance for your time in completing this brief survey.

Sincerely,

Michael J. Beck
Administrative Vice Chancellor

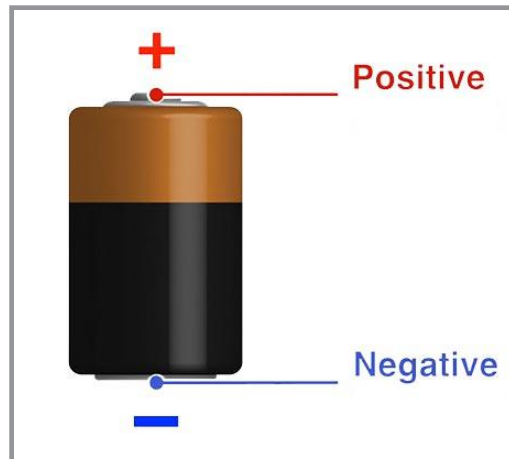
Susan Ettner
Interim Dean, Graduate Division

Source: <https://covid-19.ucla.edu/graduate-students-dependent-care-survey/>

Note: Graduate students are also going to be mainly taking online courses.

Is the outlook positive?

Thursday, August 06, 2020



From the Bruin, 8-5-20: ***At least eight UCLA football players have tested positive for COVID-19, the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health director told reporters Wednesday.*** During her daily coronavirus briefing, Barbara Ferrer mentioned UCLA football as the source of one of the many coronavirus outbreaks at colleges and universities in LA.

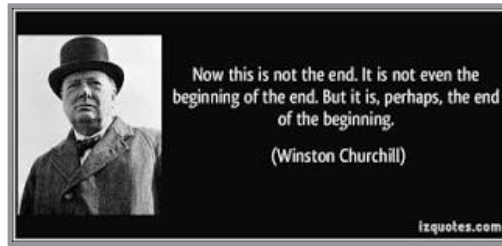
“At UCLA, we’ve seen a number of football players who returned to campus and tested positive,” Ferrer said, before elaborating and claiming there were at least eight cases. Any student-athletes who tested positive after returning to campus were required to quarantine for 10 days from the date of the test, while anyone who came in contact with someone who tested positive was required to quarantine for 14 days from the date of last contact. UCLA Athletics said in a statement that no student-athletes are currently in isolation...

Full story at <https://dailybruin.com/2020/08/05/at-least-8-ucla-football-players-reported-to-test-positive-for-coronavirus>

Something seems backwards here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6h_W2xFXkTw

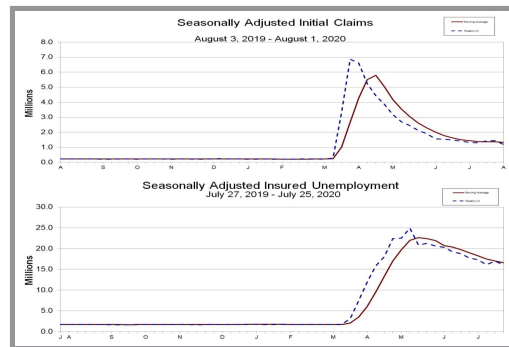
End of the Beginning - Part 10 (Maybe)

Thursday, August 06, 2020



We have been looking at the weekly new claims for unemployment insurance that seemed to suggest over the past few weeks that the economy's recovery had stalled out. The latest data through the week ending August 1 does suggest a drop in new claims, so maybe we can revert to our end-of-the-beginning title.

Below are the latest charts:

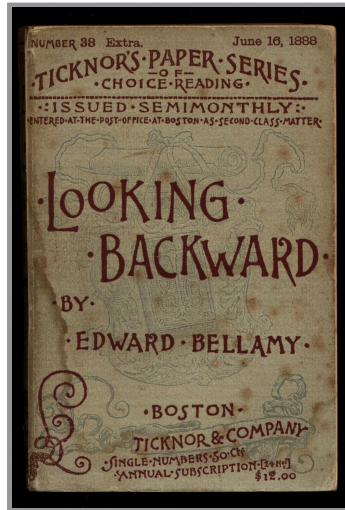


[Click on image to clarify.] New weekly claims fell from 1.4 million to 1.2 million, seasonally adjusted. Without adjustment, they dropped from 1.2 million to 1 million. The total number collecting unemployment insurance lags by a week. California remains disproportionately represented in the total. (And, if you have been following the news, you will know that there are increasing complaints that the processing of claims in California has overwhelmed the system and many claimants are either having difficulties in filing or in actual receipt of benefits.)

The latest release is always at <https://www.dol.gov/ui/data.pdf>.

Looking Backward

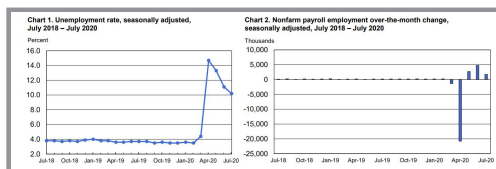
Friday, August 07, 2020



We noted in past blog posts that the economic recovery shifted from end-of-the-beginning to stall and (maybe) back to end-of-the beginning. Today, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics released its monthly labor market survey which refers to conditions in mid-July, so a backward look. It is also a look which remains affected by methodological issues resulting from the ongoing coronavirus crisis. The release refers to the U.S. as a whole and does not include a state breakdown, which will come later.

Basically, the two surveys included - household (which produces the unemployment rate) and payroll - show the situation as somewhere between our stall and end-of-the-beginning statuses.

Unemployment dropped but remains very high. Employment rose but more slowly than before - likely a result of the spread of infection and varying degrees of lockdown or return to lockdown-type steps.

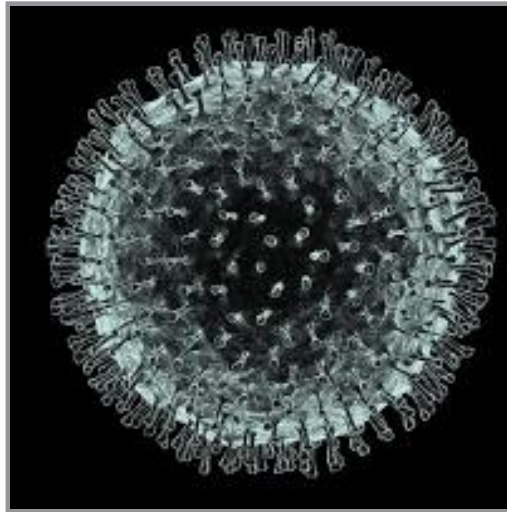


[Click on image to clarify and enlarge.] Of interest in the coming week will be the revenue collection for California from the state controller's office for July. The due date for income taxes was postponed from April to July. Preliminary reports indicate that revenue may have been above projections made for the June budget which would take some pressure off the state budget. Note that income taxes due in April and then postponed refer to the pre-coronavirus calendar year 2019. We will see.

The latest labor market release is at:
<https://www.bls.gov/news.release/pdf/empst.pdf>

Coronavirus Guidelines for Higher Ed

Friday, August 07, 2020



NOTE: As we have noted in prior posts, people are using the UCLA campus as a park. The guidelines below from the California Dept. of Public Health call for limiting access to visitors. How is that to be done at public universities such as UCLA which are open to anyone?

California Public Health Officials Release Guidance on Higher Education

=== *Institutions of Higher Education Must Make Modifications to Reduce Risk of COVID-19 Transmission for In-Person Instruction Collegiate Athletics Must Follow Vigorous Testing Procedures* SACRAMENTO – The California Department of Public Health today released statewide interim guidance for institutions of higher education (IHE). The guidance is intended to help institutions and their communities plan and prepare to resume in-person instruction when appropriate based on local conditions. IHE must take steps to minimize the risk of COVID-19 transmission on campus and to protect students, faculty, workers, and families. “As colleges and other institutions of higher education plan to resume in-person instruction, it’s critical that campuses make modifications to reduce risk,” said Dr. Erica Pan, State Epidemiologist. “This guidance aims to help prevent the spread of COVID-19 among our students, families, and the communities where they study.” A phased reopening of higher education institutions will depend on local conditions including epidemiologic trends, availability of IHE and community testing resources, and adequate IHE preparedness and public health capacity to respond to case and outbreak investigations. Implementation of this guidance should be tailored for each setting, including adequate consideration of programs operating at each institution and the needs of students and staff. The guidance identifies areas IHE must address as they consider resumption of in-person instruction. This includes:

- Complying with Guidance on the Use of Face Coverings.
- Establishing a campus-specific COVID-19 prevention plan.
- Implementing distancing on campus. Space seating/desks at least six feet apart.
- For counties on the County Data Monitoring list for three consecutive days, indoor lectures are currently prohibited. Courses offered in specialized indoor settings (e.g., labs, studio arts), whose design imposes substantial physical distancing on

- participants based on the nature of work performed in the space, are permitted.
- Limit nonessential visitors and campus activities.
- Closing nonessential shared spaces, such as game rooms and lounges.
- Providing grab-and-go meal options or serve individually plated meals.
- Prioritizing single room occupancy for housing, except for family housing.
- Training faculty, staff and students on COVID-19 prevention.
- Encouraging telework for as many faculty and staff as possible, especially workers at higher risk for severe illness from COVID-19 .
- When a student, faculty or staff member tests positive for COVID-19 and has exposed others, the IHE must conduct initial assessments then consult with local public health officials to determine potential follow-up actions needed including potential total or partial closure and other measures to protect the community.

The IHE guidance also outlines conditions under which collegiate athletics may return. This includes:

- Teams must require masks for coaches, staff, media and any players not engaged in play at each match.
- Practice may resume, only if regular periodic COVID-19 testing of athletes and support staff must be established and implemented by the IHE. Isolation and quarantine will be required upon a positive test.
- Competition between teams without spectators can begin only if:
 - IHE can provide COVID-19 testing and results within 72 hours of competition in high contact risk sports.
 - Athletics departments should consider how to share testing results and related safety assurances to opposing teams before the start of an event in a manner consistent with applicable health information and education privacy laws.
 - In conjunction with local public health officials and contact tracers, schools must in place a mechanism for notifying other schools should an athlete from one team test positive within 48 hours after competition with another team.
- Teams must follow the college athletic association (e.g., NCAA), conference-specific, and institutions of higher education-specific “return to play” safety plans.

Due to the higher risks associated with play, IHEs are expected to ensure full compliance with the state guidelines for college athletics. The state expects campus leaders to strictly adhere to these guidelines and to ensure player protections, including the preservation of scholarships and prohibition of requiring players to sign waivers of liability. In addition, the state will be actively monitoring decisions by IHEs and the NCAA, regarding protections to preserve eligibility through medical redshirts for players who exercise their right under the guidelines to opt-out for the season , and will take further action as necessary. “California will consider further action if the NCAA or other sport institutions fail to meet these requirements and prioritize their economic interests over the health and well-being of players – and their families,” added Governor Gavin Newsom . The institutions of higher education guidance is available here. California will continue to update and issue guidance based on the best available public health data and the best practices currently employed. More information about the state’s COVID-19 guidance is on the California Department of Public Health’s Guidance web page. More information about reopening California and what individuals can do to prevent the spread of COVID-19, visit Coronavirus (COVID-19) in California. Source: <http://www.oesnews.com/california-public-health-officials-release-guidance-on-higher-education/>

Note: The full 34 pages (!) of guidelines are at: <https://files.covid19.ca.gov/pdf/guidance-higher-education--en.pdf>

Remember when all we had to worry about was the flu? We still do ha...

Saturday, August 08, 2020



Email received from UCOP late yesterday afternoon:

New Flu Vaccination Requirement for UC Students, Faculty and Staff

*To support the health and well-being of UC students, faculty and staff and our communities, the University of California, in consultation with UC Health leadership, has issued a systemwide executive order (PDF) requiring all members of the UC community to receive an influenza immunization before Nov. 1, 2020. The executive order is an important proactive measure to help protect members of the UC community — and the public at large — and to ameliorate the severe burdens on health care systems anticipated during the coming fall and winter from influenza and COVID-19 illnesses. In addition to protecting those on campuses and the surrounding communities, this requirement is designed to avoid a surge of flu cases at health care facilities across the state during the unprecedented public health crisis caused by the coronavirus pandemic. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), flu vaccination is a safe and effective way to prevent millions of illnesses and thousands of related medical visits every year. In recent years, flu vaccinations have reduced the risk of flu-associated hospitalizations among older adults on average by about 40 percent. Flu vaccinations also protect those around us, including those who are more vulnerable to serious flu illness. **The executive order requires the vaccination for all faculty and staff who are working at a UC location. The university already has a clear policy on immunizations for students, and this action adds influenza to existing vaccination requirements for them, and extends the requirement to faculty and staff beyond those which presently exist for all UC health care workers.** A process will be put in place for faculty and staff to request medical exemptions. Requests for disability or religious accommodations will be handled through the interactive process consistent with existing location policies and procedures. All UC medical plans which cover faculty, staff and students include coverage for flu vaccinations at no cost to those covered by the plan. In addition, for those without group health care coverage, all ACA-compliant health plans also cover flu vaccinations as part of a preventive care package that includes no copay. The CDC is the best source for information on this year's flu vaccinations and when it [sic] would be available. More information about the implementation of UC's requirement, and when the flu vaccination for 2020-21 is available, will be shared in the coming weeks.*

What Can Be Said About the 34-Page Coronavirus Guidelines on Higher Ed

Saturday, August 08, 2020



We posted yesterday about the new guidelines from the California Dept. of Public Health that run 34 pages.* Presumably, they have an impact on planning for fall semesters and quarters at UC. To yours truly, they look like a situation in which almost everything is online and those students allowed in dorms are isolated with few-to-none activities other than sitting in their rooms alone doing online courses. Not clear what the legal liability will be if someone gets sick and all 34 pages of rules haven't been followed to the letter.

Here is what UC has said so far in response:

“ It would be premature for us to comment immediately, as we need some time to carefully assess the guidelines and their implications,” said UC spokeswoman Claire Doan.**

Indeed!

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* <http://uclafacultyassociation.blogspot.com/2020/08/coronavirus-guidelines-for-higher-ed.html>

** <https://edsource.org/2020/california-releases-guidance-for-reopening-colleges-and-universities/637909>

Why is this story coming out now?

Sunday, August 09, 2020



From the LA Times: *In a college football season on the brink before the opening kickoff,... Chip Kelly can point to all the ways things can go wrong despite the best of intentions. He can tell his own story about how he mysteriously contracted the virus that is threatening to wipe the 2020 season off the books. **The UCLA football coach tested positive for the novel coronavirus in late March after campus was shut down**, according to multiple people close to the football team who spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to publicly discuss a private health issue.*

Kelly does not know how he contracted the virus, the people close to the team said. He was tested after experiencing mild symptoms and having followed all public health recommendations, including physical distancing, wearing a mask outside his home and not socializing or going anywhere except to obtain essentials such as groceries. His wife, Jill, also tested positive and recovered at home.

Kelly and UCLA athletic department officials declined to comment on his positive test.

The coach immediately informed athletic department officials, staff and coaches as well as players and their families of his positive test. No one associated with the team or athletic department had to quarantine as a result of Kelly's positive test. UCLA held only four spring practices, including one indoors because of poor weather, before canceling the rest on March 12 as sports leagues across the country began to shut down.

Kelly shared his ordeal with his team to demonstrate how players should take the virus seriously.

Full story at <https://www.latimes.com/sports/ucla/story/2020-08-06/ucla-chip-kelly-tested-positive-for-coronavirus-early-in-pandemic>

Stalled UC Money

Monday, August 10, 2020



Blog readers will likely have seen the news that President Trump signed executive orders supposedly putting into effect continuation of unemployment insurance and other elements. Although it is not clear he can legally make such a decision, it is also unclear who will want to challenge the action. In any case, the result is to stall negotiations over such things as aid to state governments such as California's. As blog readers will know, the current state budget has trigger features that would increase funding for UC *if* sufficient money arrives from Washington. Blog readers who have listened to the Regents' Health Services Committee sessions we have archived will also know that the UC health system is hoping for additional funding to compensate for the lost revenue and increased costs related to the coronavirus situation. All of this potential funding is now stalled:

From Inside Higher Ed: *Executive orders President Donald Trump signed this weekend may bring a little help to Americans, including continuing to excuse many student loan borrowers from making payments through the rest of the year. But the unilateral move to deal with a handful of the problems the nation is facing during the coronavirus pandemic does not include help for the nation's colleges and universities, which are seeking more than \$110 billion in federal help the industry says it needs to stabilize difficult financial situations, reopen campuses safely or to protect them from coronavirus-related lawsuits.*

And higher education lobbyists say they are worried that by dealing with some of the most pressing issues, like continuing to give the unemployed slightly larger federal checks each week, Trump's orders -- if they survive legal challenges -- will take away some of the steam to push a divided Congress to pass a larger relief bill with additional aid to higher education, as well as the protection from lawsuits colleges want when, as is expected, people contract COVID-19 when campuses reopen.

It remained unclear if negotiations on a relief package would continue, with Democrats and Republicans on Sunday news shows blaming each other for the stalled talks...

Full story at <https://www.insidehighered.com/news/2020/08/10/trumps-executive-orders-could-dim-prospects-more-federal-aid-colleges>

What Could Possibly Go Wrong - Part 4

Monday, August 10, 2020



We have been warning from time to time on this blog that the switch to VoIP phone service and away from traditional landlines could lead to a failure in an earthquake or other emergency. VoIP relies on the Internet functioning. And, of course, the response of those in charge is essentially "not to worry."*

So here is an excerpt received by email from the Anderson School this morning:

*...IT Services reported this morning at 3:30 am that North Campus experienced a major power issue. Most services in the data center and core network services are currently up, such as VPN, Firewall. Edge switches in the classrooms, desktops, and **VoIP phones were affected as the power outage lasted more than three hours.** Most services are now back online...*

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* <http://uclafacultyassociation.blogspot.com/2020/07/what-could-possibly-go-wrong-part-3.html>. This link has links to earlier blog posts on this topic.

Iran Ban

Monday, August 10, 2020



From an email circulated today:

While the COVID-19 pandemic has temporarily halted our usual University-business travel (e.g., meetings, conferences, fieldwork sites, etc.), I write to you now with an eye towards a future that allows these activities to resume.

The U.S. Department of the Treasury's Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) administers and enforces a comprehensive trade embargo against Iran as set forth in the Iranian Transactions and Sanctions Regulations (ITSR). These regulations apply to all U.S. citizens, U.S. permanent residents, and U.S.-Iranian dual citizens. The ITSR generally prohibit almost all direct or indirect commercial, financial, or trade transactions with Iran unless OFAC pre-authorizes the activity through a license. Therefore, virtually all travel to or engagement in activities with Iran for UCLA business are prohibited without a license from OFAC.

These prohibitions apply regardless of whether the performance of the activity uses UCLA funds or resources. The impacted UCLA activities include, but are not limited to:

- Attending a conference or award ceremony
- Presenting at an academic conference
- Providing technical assistance or analysis
- Sharing unpublished data/research results
- Teaching
- Conducting research in Iran
- Collaborating with an Iranian institution or individual
- Exporting or importing goods or equipment
- Transferring funds to or from an Iranian institution or individual
- Paid or pro bono patient consultation and care

OFAC has the discretion to impose civil and/or criminal penalties on the institution and the individual. Each violation of the ITSR may be subject to a civil penalty of up to the greater of \$307,922 (as of the writing of this message) or twice the value of each underlying transaction; criminal conviction may result in \$1 million in fines and/or imprisonment.

The Office of Research Policy & Compliance serves as the campus point of contact for all Export Control questions and license applications. While UCLA has been successful in obtaining OFAC licenses in the past, the process can take, at minimum, six months.

Please contact the Export Control team at export.controls@research.ucla.edu to discuss the details of any anticipated travel to or engagements with Iran. We would be very happy to work with you.

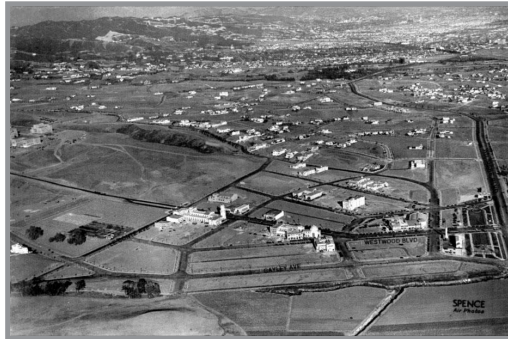
Sincerely,
Ann Pham Export Control Officer

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COMMENT: One hopes there is some pushback from academia including UC/UCLA to these types of regulations. While there may be some kinds of research that have national security implications, maintaining academic contacts is generally a Good Thing.

The land UCLA might not have had

Monday, August 10, 2020



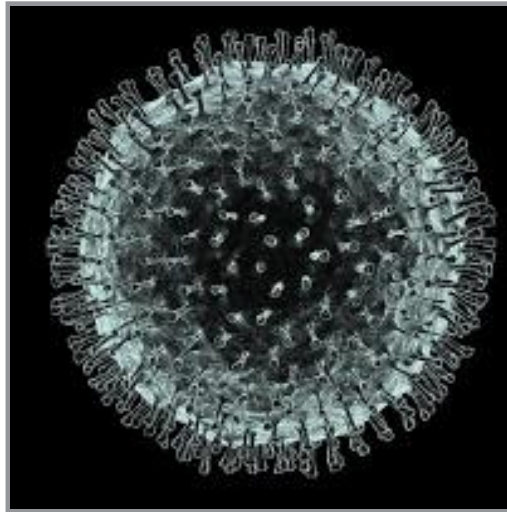
Westwood c1929 The UCLA Alumni Assn. has posted an interesting story with photos on how land now containing the Law School, the Luskin School, and other structures might not have been part of the UCLA Westwood campus:

<https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/799ebd2c61b2425e9084477d774e0ff4>

The story at the link above apparently is based on research by John Sandbrook who held various posts in the UCLA administration.

UC-SF Coronavirus Cocktail

Tuesday, August 11, 2020



From the San Francisco Chronicle: *Researchers at UCSF have begun testing a mixture of two of the most promising treatments for COVID-19 in hopes that the concoction will be the “golden ticket” everyone is looking for to neutralize the coronavirus and relieve world anxiety. Doctors conducting the study, which is sponsored by the National Institutes of Health, treated their first patient last week with a combination of remdesivir, an antiviral drug developed to treat Ebola, and interferon, an anti-inflammatory used for people with multiple sclerosis.*

The hope is that, together, the two drugs will cut the length and severity of sickness and reduce the number of deaths caused by SARS-CoV-2, the specific coronavirus that causes COVID-19.

“We are looking for the golden ticket,” said Peter Chin-Hong, a professor of medicine and infectious diseases at UCSF, who is on the study team. “The gold medalist will be a combination of drugs that will get you to the sweet spot.”

It is the third phase of NIH-sponsored drug trials looking for a medicinal cocktail, like the combination of treatments HIV-AIDS patients now use to control infection. Researchers hope to develop an effective drug cocktail for COVID-19 by the end of the year. Remdesivir, which is made by Gilead Sciences of Foster City, interferes with the process through which the coronavirus replicates itself. A large study led by the federal government generated excitement in late April when hospitalized patients who received remdesivir intravenously recovered faster than those who received a placebo.

Doctors have been using remdesivir to treat severely ill patients ever since. The problem is that there is conflicting evidence on whether remdesivir reduces the number of deaths, so “it’s not a gold medalist in my Olympics of drugs,” Chin-Hong said. “It’s a silver medalist.”

That is where beta interferon comes in, he said. A recent study in the United Kingdom showed hospitalized people who inhaled interferon like an asthma medication recovered

faster. He said the preliminary study, which has not yet been peer reviewed, showed an 80% decrease in both fatalities and the number of patients on breathing tubes compared to people on a placebo. Interferon has also reportedly worked in laboratory studies on SARS, a coronavirus identified in 2003 in China, and MERS, discovered in Saudi Arabia in 2012. Those viral respiratory illnesses caused similar symptoms to those in people infected by SARS-CoV-2.

An added benefit, Chin-Hong said, is that interferon is readily available, relatively cheap and can be given to patients at home.

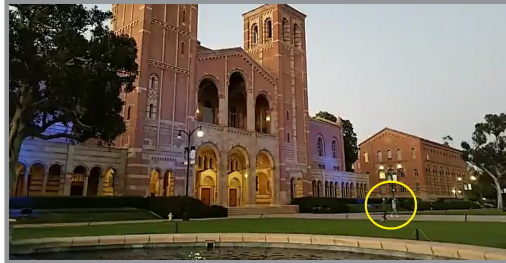
“That’s why interferon is the darling right now,” he said.

The plan is to enroll patients at UCSF and some 100 other places around the world. The 1,000 or so patients in the study will all be given a remdesivir infusion. Half will also be injected with interferon, while the other half will get a placebo. The researchers will then study how the patients in each group react over time. The combination is necessary, Chin-Hong said, because remdesivir is designed to attack the virus, while interferon reduces inflammation...

Full article at <https://www.sfchronicle.com/health/article/First-coronavirus-patient-gets-2-drug-combo-in-15473745.php>

Lonesome Travelers

Tuesday, August 11, 2020



UCLA tweeted a video of lonesome travelers crossing in front of Royce (which might make a nice green-screen video for Zoom calls/courses at UCLA):

Source: <https://twitter.com/UCLA/status/1292983652020707328>

Fall to Spring?

Tuesday, August 11, 2020



More coronavirus news from the [San Francisco Chronicle](#): *The Pac-12 and Big Ten conferences are expected to postpone football season until the spring, TMZ Sports reported Friday. Some Pac-12 staffs have been informed of the decision, per the report. An official announcement is expected Tuesday. According to a Pac-12 source, league staffers had been told in recent days that whatever the conference did would align with the Big Ten's plans.*

That same source said that the Pac-12 CEO group, comprised of one chancellor or president from each of the conference's 12 universities, will meet Tuesday. The official vote on the season will come at that meeting, but many throughout the league are already proceeding as if the fall season will be pushed to the spring. Monday's news came after the leaders of college football's Power 5 conferences (ACC, Big Ten, Big 12, SEC and Pac-12) held an emergency meeting over the weekend to weigh their options. As ESPN reported, conference officials left the meeting believing that a fall 2020 season was unlikely...

Full story at <https://www.sfchronicle.com/sports/article/Pac-12-Big-Ten-to-postpone-2020-football-season-15472649.php>

I have (some) Good News but (more) Bad News about the state budget

Tuesday, August 11, 2020



The general fund cash statement for July 2020 is now available from the state controller. July wouldn't ordinarily be an important month for the budget but this time it is because, given the coronavirus crisis, the state moved the due date for corporation and personal income taxes from April 2020 to July 2020.

So let's take a look at the table below:

	Actual	Estimated	Actual
	\$billions	July 2020	July 2020 July 2019
Corporation tax	\$4.5	\$4.8	\$0.5
Personal income tax	23.8	21.2	6.3
Sales tax	1.3	2.0	2.3
All revenues	29.9	28.3	9.4

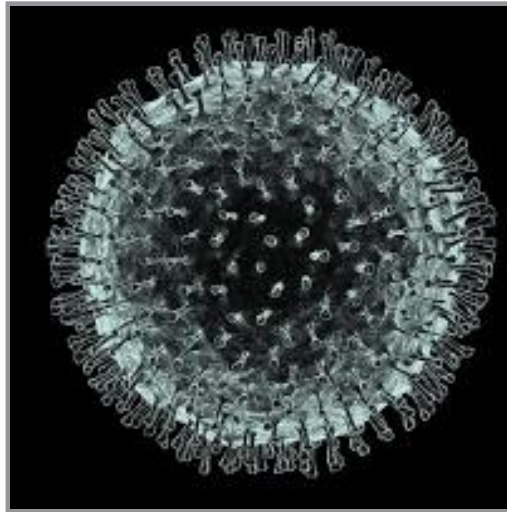
As the table shows, actual revenue from the two deferred taxes (corporation and personal income) were well above what was collected in July 2019, a normal year. A more important piece of information comes from the comparison of actual July 2020 revenue with what was estimated to come in as part of the state budget for 2020-21 enacted in June 2020. Note that the two deferred taxes reflect tax year 2019, i.e., before the coronavirus crisis. So their importance to the budget is just whether the estimate for July 2020 was too pessimistic. The corporation tax collected less than was expected but the personal income tax collected more, enough to more-than-offset the underestimate for the corporate tax. Thus, for all July 2020 revenues (which includes other minor taxes and other miscellaneous sources of revenue), there was an underestimate. That's the good news.

On the other hand, the actual sales tax for July 2020 is the bearer of bad news. Sales tax is a rough proxy for consumption behavior and it was (way) down compared with either July 2019 or the estimate made for July 2020. That drop is telling us that economic activity in July was depressed to a level significantly below what it was last year and even below what it was forecast only a month before.

Source of data: <https://sco.ca.gov/Files-ARD/CASH/July2020StatementofGeneralFundCashReceiptsandDisbursements.pdf>

And now its official

Tuesday, August 11, 2020



It definitely doesn't look like a football. A follow up for our earlier post today : From an email circulated this afternoon:

Dear Bruin Community:

Earlier today, the Pac-12 Conference made the difficult decision to postpone all fall intercollegiate athletics competitions among its member institutions, which include UCLA, and to examine the possibility of a return to play in the new year. This was a decision that I have discussed at length with our athletic director Martin Jarmond and our health and safety experts, and it is one I fully support. Amid the continuing hazards posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, the need to protect the health and welfare of our student-athletes must remain paramount. While the postponement of fall competition may not come as a surprise, it is nonetheless a disappointment to Bruins near and far. I am saddened for our student-athletes, many of whom have been training throughout the summer while diligently following safety protocols, yet who will not be able to showcase their talents and compete in the sports they love. Our coaches and staff have similarly invested a great deal of time and energy building modified training programs and flexible competition schedules. And, of course, there are tens of thousands of UCLA students, alumni and fans across the globe who will not be able to come together to cheer for our student-athletes and support our institution in one of the ways we cherish. The safety of our community must always take precedence, however. Given the recent surge in COVID-19 cases locally and nationally, it has become clear that the increased exposure and travel required for competition would put student-athletes and their support staff at risk. Suffice it to say, we remain committed to supporting our student-athletes in their studies and as they continue to train for their sports in a safe and responsible manner. Members of UCLA's athletics teams will remain enrolled in classes, retain allotted scholarship funding, and continue to have access to practice facilities and support services. As an institution, we are entering a fall term that will be truly unlike any other, and it will require many changes to our usual way of doing things. Once it is safe, we will return to competition. Until then, we must respect the health and well-being of our student-athletes and every member of the campus community. Nothing can be more important than that. Sincerely,

Gene D. Block
Chancellor

And now it's official - Part 2

Wednesday, August 12, 2020



Yesterday we reproduced the chancellor's email concerning the cancellation of the fall season of football and other sports due to the coronavirus crisis. Below we reproduce another letter - this one from UCLA athletes that was leaked to the [LA Times](#) and appeared on June 19th. One suspects there were similar letters or demands at other universities that were involved in the season cancellation.

It might be noted that the issues raised also might well apply to a broader question of why - after a decision to have almost all fall quarter courses online - we are bringing students to live in dorms, albeit with less density than normal. Are the students supposed to sit alone in single dorm rooms taking online courses? If so, they could do it from home. To the extent that other collective in-person activities are planned, what kind of health procedures will be in place? And who will supervise unplanned activities that will inevitably take place?

Here is the earlier letter from student athletes:

Letter obtained by [LA Times](#) from an article dated June 19, 2020

As student-athletes at UCLA, our lives consist of a challenging balance between sports and our academic endeavors. Although the University and Athletic Department provide support at various junctures within our careers, the responsibility to uphold and assert our rights as athletes and human beings falls within our own hands. Time and time again, we see individuals within Athletic programs who ought to defend and protect us, leave us in the dark to fend for ourselves. Starting with neglected and mismanaged injury cases, to a now mismanaged Covid-19 pandemic, our voices have been continuously muffled, and we will no longer stand for such blatant injustices.

In response to the Covid-19 pandemic, announcements from the Center of Disease Control and corresponding state and local health authorities clearly recommend the need for safety guidelines in public and private settings to ensure the safety and health of the people. As a result of precedents set by former and current Athletic Staffs, we will no longer leave the topic of our health and safety in the hands of those who have perpetually failed us. Furthermore, we will no longer stand for the condonation of these types of failures.

We as a football community assert our right to protect, preserve, and make decisions with

regard to our own personal health and safety and now demand that we are able to do so without consequence in terms of reduction, or cancellation of scholarship benefits, or retaliation from coaches and faculty in any shape or form. As such, current mandatory gatherings planned to take place by July 6th, and situations that follow wherein practices of social distancing could potentially deteriorate should be attended within the discretion of student-athletes.

Furthermore, should an athlete choose to attend these events, we demand that third-party health officials, tasked with enforcing Covid-19 regulations and identifying breaches in conduct, be present at all team activities and events in order to mitigate detrimental consequences placed on students by the possible future mishandling and neglect of Covid-19 related cases. These health officials, who ought to have no affiliation with the university or the football program, would further contribute to the prevention of serious injury, abuse, and death as a direct result of said mismanagements.

Finally, in tandem with the governance of appropriately appointed third-party health officials, we demand a space or platform for athletes and staff to directly express concerns with regard to violations of safety standards in an anonymous fashion not controlled or administered by the Athletic Department or any related offices.

As members of the College Football community, and as student-athletes as a whole, we hope to ensure that the safety and well-being of student athletes is the main priority of the athlete's respective school, and the NCAA. These demands reflect our call for an environment in which we do not feel pressured to return to competition, and if we choose not to return, that our decision will be respected. If our demands are not met, we will refrain from booster events, recruiting events, and all football related promotional activities. The decision to return to training amidst a global pandemic has put us, the student athletes, on the frontlines of a battle that we as a nation have not yet been able to win. We feel that as some of the first members of the community to attempt a return to normalcy, we must have assurances that allow us to make informed decisions and be protected regardless of our decision.

DEMANDS

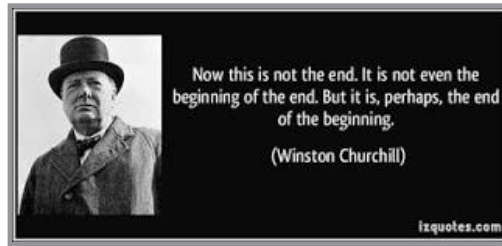
- *Third-party health officials in charge of overseeing and enforcing health and safety guidelines. Also, see that guidelines should be clearly and publicly stated*
- *Whistleblower protections provided for athletes and staff (protection of position/job) who want to report violations of any guidelines*
- *Ability to make decisions with regard to personal health without consequences in terms of loss of scholarship or retaliation from coaches in any form. That is, it should be within an athlete's discretion to put his or her health at risk and attend a sports related event without consequences.*

Osawaru Odighizuwa, Dorian Thompson-Robinson, Atonio Mafi, Demetric Felton, Kyle Phillips, Igbinohodua Isibor, Stephan Blaylock, Quentin Lake, Chase Cota, Jay Shaw, Martell Irby, Jon Gaines, Carl Jones, Otito Ogbonna, Leni Toailoa, Ethan Matus, Datona Jackson, Rayshad Williams, Kenny Churchwell, Winston Polite, Charles Njoku, Steven Mason, Mo Osling, Tyler Manoa, William Nimmo, Alec Anderson, Elisha Guidry, Elijah Wade (General Representative III 2020-2021), Baraka Beckett, Carson Drake, Martin Andrus

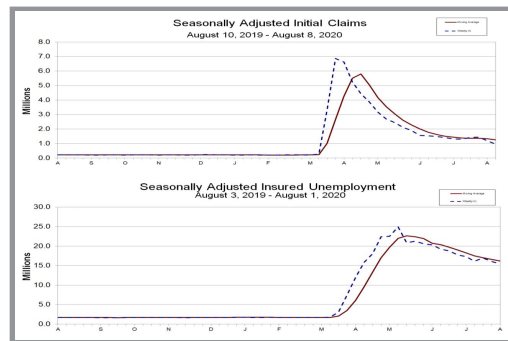
Source: <https://ca-times.brightspotcdn.com/3b/55/c4a2b4b64a3cb1e40a34642cef21/final-2.pdf>. The letter appeared in a link within an article entitled "UCLA football players demand protection from 'injustices' amid pandemic return" at <https://www.latimes.com/sports/ucla/story/2020-06-19/ucla-football-players-demand-protections-amid-pandemic-return>.

End of the Beginning - Part 11 (Maybe)

Thursday, August 13, 2020

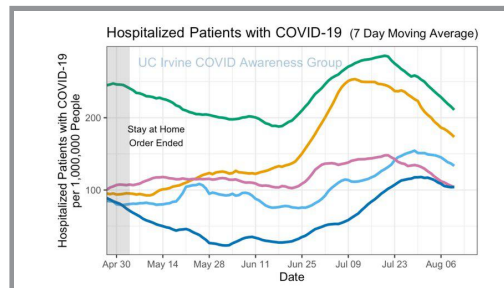


We continue to look at new weekly claims for unemployment insurance as a proxy for the general direction of the economy. At the national level, claims for the week ending August 8 dropped on a seasonally-adjusted basis from about 1.2 million to 963,000 (rounded). Note that the latest figure is always preliminary. Without seasonal adjustment, the figure fell from 988,000 to 832,000. So at the national level, it looks as though the recovery continues although - in absolute terms - things are pretty bad.



[Click on image to clarify.] For California, the situation is more ambiguous. Over a fourth of new claims came from California. The previous week, California accounted for just under a fifth of those collecting unemployment benefits, a disproportionate share that appears to be growing. (California figures are not seasonally adjusted.) The California lag probably reflects the tightening up of the coronavirus-related restrictions that were put in place.*

Although there was a well-publicized SNAFU in data reports of new coronavirus cases (which got the state's director of Public Health removed), the data on new hospital cases suggest a downward trend, which is a Good Thing.



[Click on image to clarify.]=====

* The latest weekly data are at

<https://www.dol.gov/sites/dolgov/files/OPA/newsreleases/ui-claims/20201574.pdf>.

**Data from the UC-Irvine database: <https://www.stat.uci.edu/covid19/index.html>.

A fly in the ointment?

Thursday, August 13, 2020



You may have seen in yesterday's Los Angeles Times - Calendar section - a long article saying that since museums are closed due to the coronavirus crisis, it's nice to be able to walk in UCLA's sculpture garden and enjoy the artwork.*



But there may be a fly in the ointment. According to the new California higher ed guidelines - at least as yours truly understands them - universities are supposed to control access to the campus by visitors. As we have noted in prior blog posts, with other recreational sites limited, people (visitors) seem to be using the campus as a public park, including the sculpture garden. Not all of these folks wear masks. Children run around.

So how is access to be controlled at a public university with many entrances? Are the UC police going to do it? Hand out tickets to the unmasked? What?

Just asking.

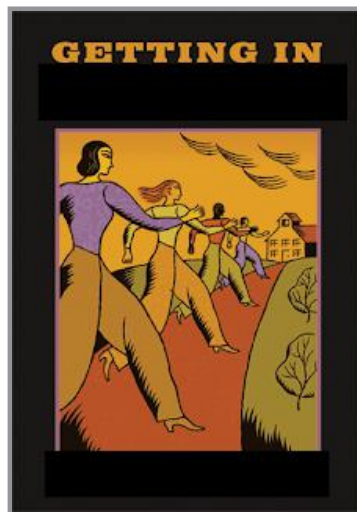
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* <https://www.latimes.com/entertainment-arts/story/2020-08-12/covid-walks-ucla-murphy->

[sculpture-garden](#)

Rerun of Harvard Case at Yale

Friday, August 14, 2020



Blog readers will recall the Harvard case in which it was charged Harvard's admission practices disfavored Asians.* The plaintiffs lost in lower court and the case is now on appeal supported by the U.S. Dept. of Justice. Something similar seems now to be happening at Yale, although it appears that the Justice Dept. is the lead actor rather than a private plaintiff. Of course, if the upcoming election produces a Biden administration, the Department would likely withdraw the charge. However, if the Trump administration continues and if California voters repeal Prop 209 - the anti-affirmative action initiative of the mid-1990s - UC's admission practices might also be challenged.

From the NY Times:

The Justice Department on Thursday accused Yale University of violating federal civil rights law by discriminating against Asian-American and white applicants, an escalation of the Trump administration's moves against race-based admissions policies at elite universities. The charge, coming after a two-year investigation, is the administration's second confrontation with an Ivy League school; two years ago, it publicly backed Asian-American students who accused Harvard in a lawsuit of systematically discriminating against them. The department's finding could have far-reaching consequences for the ongoing legal challenges to affirmative action, which are expected to eventually reach the Supreme Court... Full story at <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/08/13/us/yale-discrimination.html> Note that even if Trump is replaced by Biden, and if 209 is repealed by voters in November (as the Regents now would prefer), a private lawsuit could be filed against UC as in the Harvard case and ultimately make its way to the now-conservative U.S. Supreme Court. In that case, a Biden Dept. of Justice might support UC's practices.

As in the case of just about everything else nowadays, we will see.

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* <http://uclafacultyassociation.blogspot.com/2020/02/update-on-harvard-admissions.html>

Helping Franz

Friday, August 14, 2020



From the Bruin: *The University of California system received \$2.65 billion from a California state sale of revenue bonds which will help finance projects across UC campuses. Revenue bonds are a type of municipal bond, which function like loans and are sold to fund projects. Revenue from the project is used to repay the investors who bought the bonds.*

California State Treasurer Fiona Ma sold revenue bonds to third-party investors to help the UC fund or refinance different projects, according to a press release from the California Treasury. About \$1.15 billion will be spent on campus projects and another \$1.5 billion will be used for “working capital,” according to the press release. Working capital includes funding for the UC regents’ financial assets and capital needs like equipment, according to a UC Office of the President financial policy document.

*The UC will use the money from these bonds to fund more than 50 construction projects at all 10 UC campuses and the UC Agriculture and Natural Resources Research and Extension Center, which include maintenance and seismic upgrades for new buildings, UC spokesperson Sarah McBride said in an emailed statement. Some money from the bond designated for construction projects will go toward earthquake safety improvements for Franz Hall, McBride added. The UC rated Franz Hall as a Level V risk, according to a 2016 document from the UC regents, meaning it posed a “serious” risk to life in the event of an earthquake...**

Full story at <https://dailybruin.com/2020/08/10/university-of-california-receives-2-65b-from-state-treasury-sale-of-bonds>

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* Franz Hall was named for the pioneering psychologist, Shepherd Ivory Franz (1874-1933), the first Chair of the Psychology Department at UCLA, and a member of the faculty between 1924 and his death in 1933. Franz received his B.A. (1894) and his Ph.D. (1899) in psychology from Columbia University. As noted in his Calisphere record, he had taught psychology and/or physiology at the Harvard Medical School (1899-1901), Dartmouth Medical School (1901-1904), George Washington University Medical School

(1906-1921), and Saint Elizabeth's Hospital, Washington, DC, (1907-1924), among other institutions. Franz passed away due to amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS). (See Colotla, V.A., Bach-y-Rita, P., "Shepherd Ivory Franz: His Contributions to Neuropsychology and Rehabilitation," *Cognitive Affective Behavioral Neuroscience*, vol 2, no. 2, 06/2002, p. 141-148.)

Source: <http://pcad.lib.washington.edu/building/10658/>

The same source mentions that the 1960s addition to Franz Hall was designed by pioneering African American architect Paul R. Williams:

Paul Revere Williams, FAIA (1894-1980) By any measure, the accomplishments of trailblazing architect Paul Williams are astounding. In a career spanning almost six decades, Williams designed more than 3,000 structures and mastered a range of architectural styles. He broke racial barriers, becoming the first African American member (and later, Fellow) of the American Institute of Architects (AIA), as well as a civic leader. Born in Los Angeles in 1894, Williams was orphaned at the age of four. Exceptionally gifted, he landed internships and jobs at prominent, local architecture firms immediately after high school in 1912, despite prevailing racial prejudice. Discouraged by his elders yet undeterred, Williams took classes at the Los Angeles Beaux-Arts School, ultimately attending USC's School of Engineering. In 1920, he was appointed to the first Los Angeles City Planning Commission. The following year, he became a certified architect and began working for the great John C. Austin. Williams opened his own practice in 1923, later serving as an architect for the Navy during World War II. He designed almost 2,000 homes in Los Angeles alone, many for wealthy businessmen and Hollywood stars. Yet he also designed affordable homes, public housing, and a host of civic, commercial, and institutional buildings. Regardless of style or use, his work shared the common threads of elegant composition and perfect proportion. Williams was part of the LAX planning and design team. His mid-twentieth-century designs include the Los Angeles County Courthouse, the Golden State Mutual Life Insurance Building, Hillside Memorial Park, Westwood Medical Center, and First AME Church. He renovated the iconic Ambassador Hotel (now demolished) and transformed a supermarket on Wilshire Boulevard into the chic restaurant Perino's (also demolished). Highly astute, Williams masterfully navigated the business and social circles of the day. He even learned to draw upside down in order to sketch for clients from across the table—for the benefit of any white clients who might have been uneasy sitting next to an African American. He received numerous accolades, including the AIA Award of Merit, the NAACP Spingarn Medal, and USC's Distinguished Alumni Award. In 1957, he became first African American to become an AIA Fellow. Williams was posthumously awarded the AIA's 2017 Gold Medal, America's highest honor for an architect. Williams is the first African American to receive the AIA Gold Medal. Williams retired in 1973, fifty years after opening his practice. He passed away in 1980 at the age of 85. Despite his legendary status and prolific output, examples of Williams' work face increasing threats of demolition or excessive alteration.

Source: <https://www.laconservancy.org/architects/paul-r-williams>

Stanford's U-Turn

Friday, August 14, 2020



Yet another university realizes that it makes no sense to have almost all courses online due to the coronavirus crisis and nonetheless have students locked up on campus in dorms taking those courses. What is the point of them being there?

From Inside Higher Ed:

Reversing course, Stanford University on Thursday announced that it would not bring students back to its physical campus this fall and would provide virtually all of its instruction remotely. Stanford had originally planned to bring freshman, sophomore and new transfer undergraduate students to campus in the fall, followed by juniors and seniors in the spring, and to deliver a meaningful proportion of its instruction in person and in a hybrid format. Now only a limited number of students with "special circumstances" will be on campus. The university's announcement, which cited worsening public health conditions in northern California involving COVID-19, came two days after its athletics conference, the Pac-12, postponed sports competition this fall...

Full story at <https://www.insidehighered.com/quicktakes/2020/08/14/stanford-wont-bring-students-back-campus-fall>

Confucius

Friday, August 14, 2020



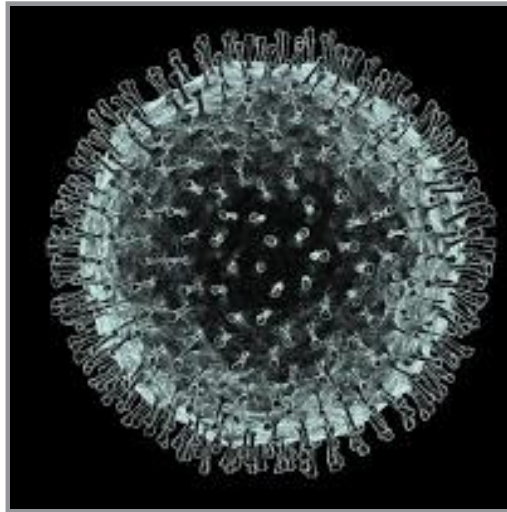
From *Inside Higher Ed*: The State Department announced Thursday that it was designating the Washington, D.C.-based Confucius Institute U.S. Center a "foreign mission" of the People's Republic of China. The center coordinates language and cultural programs for the Confucius Institutes, Chinese government-funded centers for language education and cultural programming, at colleges across the United States. The institutes have run afoul of Congressional lawmakers who see them as vehicles for disseminating Chinese government propaganda in U.S. classrooms.

This latest move by the State Department reflects another way in which an increasingly adversarial and competitive relationship between the U.S. and China has affected academic exchange. The State Department says the designation recognizes the Confucius Institute U.S. Center "for what it is: an entity advancing Beijing's global propaganda and malign influence campaign on U.S. campuses and K-12 classrooms. State Department officials said in a press briefing that the designation of the Confucius Institute U.S. Center does not directly affect campus-based Confucius Institutes, but does mean that the coordinating office in Washington will have to provide the State Department with regular reports about funding, personnel and operations of Confucius Institutes and Confucius classrooms across the U.S. and to provide information about curriculum and training material...

Full story at <https://www.insidehighered.com/news/2020/08/14/state-department-designates-dc-coordinating-office-confucius-institutes-foreign>

No Layoffs (With Qualification)

Friday, August 14, 2020



From an email circulated earlier today:

Dear UCLA Faculty and Staff: As we approach fall, UCLA continues to face significant COVID-19–related budget challenges — a reality we expect to reverberate long after the pandemic ends. With just a fraction of our students in on-campus housing, alongside other factors, UCLA will face the greatest financial impact of any University of California campus, an amount that currently stands at about \$540 million.* These are difficult circumstances, to be sure, but I provide this update in the spirit of openness and transparency that defines us as a public institution. Despite these challenges, I am making the following commitment: **UCLA will have no pandemic-related indefinite or temporary layoffs for career employees through at least January 15, 2021. This is provided that, in areas where there is a lack of available work, affected employees are willing to accept other work duties, which will be offered at the same level of pay and benefits.** (Italics added.) Our people are our strength. In a time of anxiety and uncertainty, we are committed to doing what we can for as long as we can to ensure our staff members have meaningful work, a reliable income, and the health care and benefits needed to feel a sense of stability. Fulfilling this pledge, however, will require the support and flexibility of our community. The pandemic has dramatically affected campus operations, leaving significantly less available work in areas like transportation, housing and dining. While 13,600 students typically enroll in housing and dining programs on the Hill during a normal academic year, for instance, that number dropped to 600 by May. Similarly, the number of meals we needed to produce daily fell from approximately 35,000 to 1,000. We are confident that we will return to normal operations and regular staffing levels in the future. But for now, we will be asking supervisors to be flexible in offering reassignment opportunities, along with training, to those affected by a lack of currently available work. In the same vein, we will encourage employees to take this opportunity to learn new skills and accept new assignments, even if different from their customary duties. One small but meaningful example of a recent reassignment exists within the Office of Strategic Communications, where staff who typically organize in-person events retrained to generate ad sales revenue for the campus. At the core of UCLA is a commitment to education, and that commitment extends to our career

employees. The campus will cover the costs of all necessary job retraining for those asked to take up new duties. To further support these transitions and help create opportunities for employees to pursue new career paths, we will make certain professional development classes and programs available to members of our campus at no charge, including some certificate programs offered by UCLA Extension. In addition, we will offer employees impacted by changes in work the opportunity to strengthen their multi-language skills. Throughout the past few months, all of our community members have demonstrated an inspiring level of strength, understanding, flexibility and ingenuity. We need this to continue, with the understanding that every effort counts. If staff have ideas for cost savings or ways to adjust duties within their department or unit that can help the campus, we encourage them to speak to their supervisors. As celebrated UCLA men's basketball coach John Wooden once said: "Little things make big things happen." We do not know how long this pandemic and its associated fiscal impacts will last, though we do know the road to recovery will be long. We are grateful that UCLA is currently in a financial position that allows us to make these commitments and we recognize that this may not be the case for other UC campuses. We will do the best we can to avoid job losses for as many qualified employees for as long as we possibly can. If everyone does their part, and if we remain dedicated to one another and open to adapting to support the broader needs of our community, we will get through this together — as Bruins. Sincerely, **Gene D. Block** Chancellor

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***Note: The \$540 million figure is undefined in this email. Does it include the health complex? What is included? Lost dorm revenue? Sanitation expenses? Over what time period? To put the number in perspective, the entire cut in the state payment for this fiscal year *to the entire UC* (this year vs. last year) is about \$483 million if there is no federal funding from Congress. See <https://uclafacultyassociation.blogspot.com/2020/07/the-uc-budget-what-is-projected.html>**

Settlement at UC-Santa Cruz

Saturday, August 15, 2020



We're catching up with a settlement reached at UC-Santa Cruz where a grad student/TA strike took place before the coronavirus crisis (remember back then?).

Below is an official announcement from the UC-Santa Cruz chancellor:

Restoring graduate student employment eligibility

To: UC Santa Cruz Community

From: Chancellor Cynthia Larive and Campus Provost and Executive Vice Chancellor Lori Kletzer

August 11, 2020

Last month, we announced a settlement agreement between UC Santa Cruz and the union that represents teaching assistants and other academic student employees (United Auto Workers 2865) that would create a path toward re-employment. Last week, representatives from University of California Office of the President, UC Santa Cruz, and UAW 2865 worked with a mediator to negotiate an agreement to allow for eligibility for re-employment of academic student employees who were dismissed for their failure to submit grades during the 2019-20 academic year.

This is an important step toward rebuilding community trust and moving beyond the discord created by the wildcat strike. It also reflects the limitations we operate under when confronted with violations of a closed contract between UCOP and a union. We take seriously the campus's role in meeting the promises created through collective bargaining. Actions outside a collective bargaining agreement undermine our relationship with our unions, and ultimately will not replicate what is achieved at a bargaining table. We now find ourselves roughly where we were on Jan. 27, when UC Santa Cruz announced new five-year funding guarantees and \$2,500 housing stipends to help address the real concerns raised by graduate students about the cost of housing. We take seriously our commitment to the well-being and success of graduate students and we will work to create and maintain an environment of open and honest dialogue.

Termination is an outcome in the disciplinary process outlined in the UAW 2865 contract. There is no debate that those who were terminated violated their contract by withholding grades. These terminations were not unfair or unexpected as ample notice was provided and opportunities to submit grades were offered right up to the deadline — a deadline long after grades were due. UCSC continued to pay for the health insurance of those who were dismissed from their appointments for violating their contract. Only once all grades

were turned in and the wildcat strike ended were we able to explore pathways to eligibility for employment with UCOP and UAW 2865.

UC Santa Cruz graduate students play a critical role in advancing research, supporting teaching and learning, and serving society through their work in pursuit of an advanced degree. Our graduate students are not just the future of academic research and teaching, they are a vital part of its present. We remain resolute in our commitment to find new ways to support the success of our graduate students while they study at UC Santa Cruz. This requires honest and open dialogue on the issues within our control where we can take concrete action. Improving graduate education is a continuous process and takes consistent engagement and effort by our whole community.

We recognize that it will take time and continued action to rebuild trust with our community, particularly with those who supported the wildcat strike. Our graduate students must thrive if our campus is to succeed in its mission.

Source: <https://news.ucsc.edu/2020/08/restoring-grad-student-employment-eligibility.html>

Note: Inside Higher Ed reports that a total of 41 grad students were involved:
<https://www.insidehighered.com/quicktakes/2020/08/12/uc-santa-cruz-reinstates-41-fired-grad-students>

Lost Revenue

Saturday, August 15, 2020



How much money could USC, UCLA lose from canceled sports season

By Brandon Sawyer, [Portland Business Journal](#), 8-14-20

The Pac-12 followed the Big Ten and Mid-American conferences in canceling their fall sports seasons to reduce the risk of spreading Covid-19. Based on the 2018-19 academic year data from higher ed's Equity in Athletics Data Analysis system at the U.S. Department of Education, the Pac-12 conference, including University of California Los Angeles and the University of Southern California, may be forgoing about \$1.3 billion in annual revenue by canceling athletic activity.

UCLA had 702 student athletes and USC had 576 in their athletic programs last year drawing an average of \$181,395 and \$206,054 of revenue to the schools, respectively. UCLA had a grand total of \$127.3 million in athletic program revenue while USC drew \$118.7 million, both ahead of the average for the Pac-12 conference, which was \$106.4 million.

The biggest money maker at both Los Angeles schools was, of course, men's football, with the UCLA Bruins bringing in \$41.3 million and the USC Trojans collecting \$50 million. Next up was men's basketball, raising \$12 million at UCLA and \$6.3 million at USC. Basketball was the top-grossing sport for women at both colleges, bringing in \$1 million at UCLA and \$2.8 million at USC. The deferred season will not only dim the prospects for more than a thousand student athletes in the state, it will make college life a lot less exciting for tens of thousands of Los Angeles college students and likely cost the institution's hundreds of millions of dollars.

Source: <https://www.bizjournals.com/losangeles/news/2020/08/14/how-much-money-could-usc-ucla-lose-from-canceled.html>

Note: The article appears to be referring to gross revenue, not net. The degree to which the loss would spread beyond the athletic programs is not clear.

Bike sharing - Part 2

Saturday, August 15, 2020



Back in November, yours truly noted that the UCLA bike sharing program appeared to be drying up, given the competition from e-scooters.* He wondered whether the bike sharing program - which featured pedal-only bikes - could persist. Of course, nowadays in coronavirus time, with the number of people on campus limited, no one is doing much riding on anything.

UCLA's program offered prorated refunds to bike rental subscribers this summer:

<https://ucla.app.box.com/s/dd0nvddrv65z9avyp6gmddz3rkxkx3wt>

(Apparently, it's too late to request a refund if you haven't already done so, according to the link above.)

Now Santa Monica, which had a similar program, has terminated it officially and will sell off, give away, or "recycle" the bikes:

<https://www.smdp.com/breeze-bikeshare-to-end-in-november/195482>

It's hard to imagine that the UCLA program can be revived.

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* <https://uclafacultyassociation.blogspot.com/2019/11/bike-sharing.html>

Health Services Committee of Regents Meets August 24

Sunday, August 16, 2020



Back in Pre-Coronavirus Days The next agenda of the Regents' Health Services Committee is now posted. Detailed exhibits that may be connected to the various topics are not yet available, however. The new UC president - Michael Drake - will be addressing the Zoom meeting. Given his medical background, he may be more active in issues related to the UC health programs than earlier presidents.

One segment of the upcoming meeting appears to deal with labor standards related to the coronavirus crisis at UC Health. If one has to guess, that topic could well be an issue put on the agenda by Regents Chair Pérez.

HEALTH SERVICES COMMITTEE

Date: August 24, 2020

Time: 10:00 a.m.

Locations: Teleconference meeting conducted in accordance with Paragraph 3 of Governor Newsom's Executive Order N-29-20

Agenda – Open Session

- Public Comment Period (20 minutes)
- Action: Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting of June 17, 2020
- Remarks of the President of the University
- H1 Discussion: Update of the COVID-19 Impact on the University of California: UC Health Issues
- H2 Discussion: Oversight Expectations Unique to Health Care Boards
- H3 Discussion: Speaker Series – Community Impact During COVID-19: UC Irvine's Work with Aging Population Centers and Local Schools
- H4 Discussion: UC Health Labor and Occupational Health Considerations During COVID-19

Source: <https://regents.universityofcalifornia.edu/regmeet/aug20/hs.pdf>

What could possibly go wrong?

Monday, August 17, 2020



Inside Higher Ed presents a catalog of things already going wrong at universities planning some kind of in-person reopening: [excerpt]

The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill over the weekend reported a cluster of COVID-19 cases linked to a fraternity and another cluster linked to a residence hall, the third and fourth such clusters announced by the university since it restarted classes last Monday. A cluster is defined as five or more cases located in close proximity. The Faculty Executive Committee at Chapel Hill is set to hold a special meeting today to discuss the clusters, according to the Raleigh News & Observer. The chair of the faculty, Mimi V. Chapman, wrote to the UNC System's Board of Governors asking it to give authority to Chapel Hill's chancellor to make decisions about the campus's operating status.

"The presence of clusters should be triggering reconsideration of residential, in-person learning," Chapman wrote. "However, moving to remote instruction cannot be done without your approval."

At Oklahoma State University, a sorority house is under quarantine after 23 members tested positive for COVID, according to The Oklahoman.

Elsewhere in the state, nine football players at the University of Oklahoma tested positive after returning from a break, ESPN reported.

The president of Villanova University, in Pennsylvania, warned students they will be sent home if they do not abide by COVID-related guidelines after hundreds of freshmen gathered for a large outdoor group gathering, Philly Voice reported. Videos showed students failing to abide by social distancing requirements; many were not wearing masks.

Meanwhile, Columbia University and Barnard College both retreated from plans to invite undergraduates back to campus in favor of an all-virtual fall...

Full story at <https://www.insidehighered.com/news/2020/08/17/covid-19-roundup-rubber-hits-road-some-campuses-fall-plans-continue-diverge>

UCLA Bubble

Monday, August 17, 2020



From an email circulated earlier today:

To the UCLA Community: Thank you to everyone who recently completed the dependent care survey. Your feedback has been invaluable as we continue to develop resources to support UCLA families during this challenging time. Today we are pleased to share our newly created Bruin Bubble resource, which can help Bruin families connect to each other for shared childcare, learning or mutually beneficial socio-emotional experiences (both virtual and in person).* This new initiative helps match families with similar needs in their desired geographical area through an initial questionnaire and assistance by a UCLA staff member. If you are interested in participating, please complete the questionnaire. Additional resources will be available over the next few weeks, including a centralized web page with links to more dependent care resources for the UCLA community, as well as webinars focused on topics that may be of interest. Thanks again for your feedback. We look forward to continuing to work with you to meet your dependent care needs. Sincerely, **Michael J. Beck** Administrative Vice Chancellor **Michael S. Levine** Vice Chancellor for Academic Personnel **Devin Dillon** Superintendent PreK-12 Operations ===== *From <https://www.ece.ucla.edu/child-care-resources-for-ucla-faculty-staff-and-students> **Bruin Bubbles** : *A new initiative helping Bruin families connect to each other for shared childcare, learning or mutually beneficial socio-emotional experiences (both virtual and in person). If you are interested in participating, please complete the questionnaire . Once your Bruin Bubble is established, please see these 5 Steps to Making Your Bruin Bubbles Connection Work .*

What could possibly go wrong? - UPDATE

Monday, August 17, 2020



From the Huffington Post on the coronavirus crisis: *The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill announced Monday afternoon that the school was moving its undergraduate courses to online only, just a week after the semester began. Over the weekend, the school had announced four separate “clusters” of COVID-19 – defined as five or more cases – in student housing.*

As of Monday, the school reported only four spaces remained in the quarantine housing set aside for students who had been exposed to the virus. An announcement from Chancellor Kevin M. Guskiewicz and Provost Robert A. Blouin said undergraduate courses would move to remote learning as of Wednesday, August 19, while “our graduate, professional and health affairs schools will continue to be taught as they are, or as directed by the schools.”

What happens next for the thousands of students who moved in less than two weeks ago was not exactly clear. “Due to this announcement as well as the reduction of campus activities, we expect the majority of our current undergraduate residential students to change their residential plans for the fall,” they wrote. “We are working to identify additional effective ways to further achieve de-densification of our residential halls and our campus facilities.”...

Full story at https://www.huffpost.com/entry/coronavirus-clusters-us-universities-as-semester-begins_n_5f3ade02c5b670ab17aea1be

Our earlier post on this topic is at <https://uclafacultyassociation.blogspot.com/2020/08/what-could-possibly-go-wrong.html>

Drake takes over as UC prez

Tuesday, August 18, 2020



There was a bit of confusion in various news accounts as to when Michael Drake would take over as UC president. In fact it was yesterday. A video announcement is below:

Spillovers from CalPERS Scandals Tend to Hurt UC

Tuesday, August 18, 2020



CalPERS, the huge (nation's largest) public pension and retirement fund, has been prone to scandal for years. Even though the UC pension is one of the three major California pension systems (behind CalPERS and CalSTRS), it is governed very differently from the others, particularly from CalPERS. However, when public policy changes are made with regard to public pensions, UC is an after-thought. But we tend to be dragged into whatever the aftermath turns out to be.

The latest CalPERS involves its chief investment officer who abruptly resigned in order, he said, “*focus on my health and on my family and move on to the next chapter in my life.*”

You can read about it in the Sacramento Bee here:

<https://www.sacbee.com/news/politics-government/the-state-worker/article245025205.html>

The latest scandal seems to have been triggered by reports in the Naked Capitalism blog:

<https://www.nakedcapitalism.com/2020/08/calpers-digs-its-ben-meng-defenestration-hole-deeper-the-more-it-splains-claims-knowledge-of-problem-months-ago.html>

and

<https://www.nakedcapitalism.com/2020/08/calpers-chief-investment-officer-ben-meng-resigns-following-our-exposing-his-false-felonious-financial-disclosure-filings-and-private-equity-conflicts-of-interest.html>

and

<https://www.nakedcapitalism.com/2020/08/calpers-chief-investment-officer-ben-meng-made-false-felonious-financial-disclosure-report-more-proof-of-lack-of-compliance-under-marcie-frost.html>

There is not much we can do about it, other than fret. From time to time, the Regents have noted that the state routinely funds CSU's retirement costs through CalPERS, but does not routinely pay into the UC plan. Let's hope that this time, the scandal-free UC pension can differentiate itself and distance itself from CalPERS.

What could possibly go wrong? More updates

Tuesday, August 18, 2020



Michigan State, Notre Dame Pivot on Fall Plans Amid Rising COVID-19 Cases

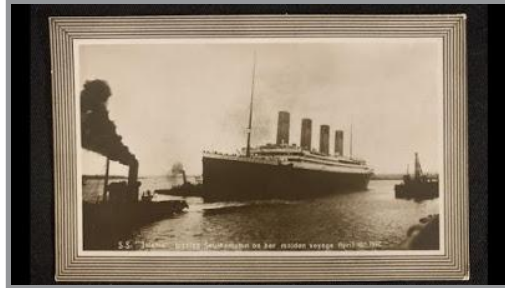
Two more major research universities are walking back plans to resume in-person undergraduate instruction, continuing a rocky rollout for fall reopening plans across higher education. The University of Notre Dame announced Tuesday afternoon it will suspend in-person classes for almost 12,000 students, moving undergraduate classes online for two weeks while keeping students on campus and giving it a chance to reassess its plans and a rising coronavirus infection rate before classes resume. The announcement came at virtually the same time Michigan State asked undergraduates who had planned to live in residence halls to stay home and that it will transition classes planned for in-person instruction to remote formats.

The moves come the day after the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill pulled the plug on in-person classes after just one week. Chapel Hill told students to return home and be ready to complete classes online after a large number of students tested positive for COVID-19 infections last week and the campus's testing positivity rate spiked to 13.6 percent.

Source: <https://www.insidehighered.com/newsletter/breaking/2020/08/18/michigan-state-notre-dame-pivot-fall-plans-amid-rising-covid-19-cases>

What could possibly go wrong? Still more updates

Tuesday, August 18, 2020

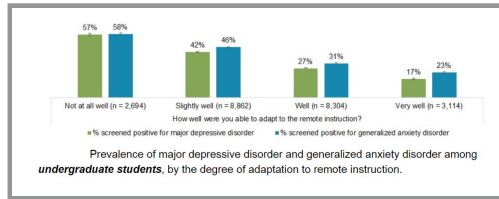


From today's LA Times: *The new county guidelines are likely to create more financial woes for UCLA as they allow only students with no “feasible alternative” to live in campus housing, which must be limited to single occupants. The Westwood campus had hoped to house as many as 1,500 students in double-occupancy apartments.*

UCLA also planned to offer about 8% of classes in person, including some that involve laboratory work, performing arts and clinical health fields. The county guidelines, however, reiterated that only classes that involved training for “essential workforce” needs, such as public health, emergency services, food, energy and transportation, could be offered in person. A UCLA spokesman said the university was “actively reviewing the protocols” but could not yet elaborate on how the county rules would affect its reopening plan. UCLA does not start its fall quarter until Sept. 28; if public health conditions improve by then, county officials may relax the rules... Full story at <https://www.latimes.com/california/story/2020-08-18/la-me-county-college-reopening-rules>

Depressed Online

Wednesday, August 19, 2020

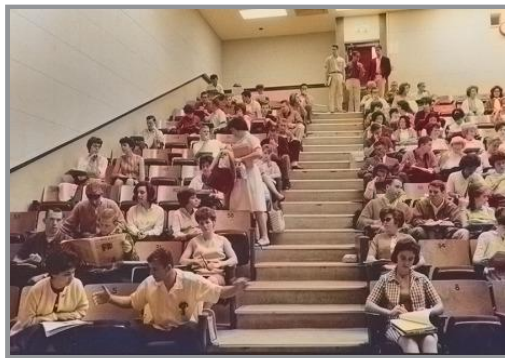


[Click on image to clarify and enlarge.] A Berkeley study finds undergraduates and graduate students who are having trouble with online education at various unnamed public universities are also more likely to be depressed and anxious. Maybe this isn't a surprising finding. Yours truly is not an expert in psychology or the particular instruments used in the survey. However, abrupt changes in plans - in-person vs. online - can't be helping the situation.

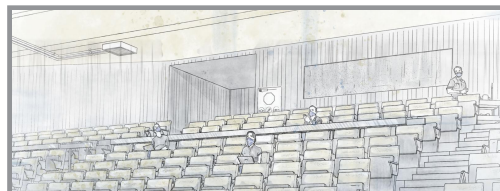
The study is at <https://escholarship.org/uc/item/80k5d5hw>

A brief summary appears in <https://www.insidehighered.com/quicktakes/2020/08/19/students-reporting-depression-and-anxiety-higher-rates>

The way it was: (back in 1962 - Haines Hall)



The way some people thought it might be:



The way it is turning out to be:

What could possibly go wrong? - What's the plan for off-campus?

Wednesday, August 19, 2020



From the NY Times: Anyone have a plan for this in fall?

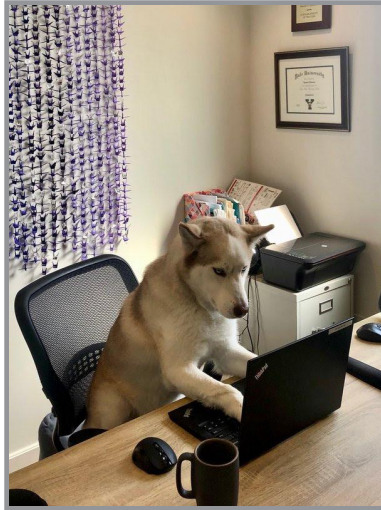
...The New York Times has identified at least 251 cases of the virus tied to fraternities and sororities. At the University of California, Berkeley, 47 cases were identified in a single week in early July, most of which were connected to the Greek system. In Mississippi, a significant outbreak in Oxford, home to the state's flagship university, was partially blamed on fraternity parties. At the University of Washington's Seattle campus, at least 165 of the 290 cases identified by the school have been associated with its Greek Row...

Fraternities and sororities have been especially challenging for universities to regulate. Though they dominate social life on many campuses, their houses are often not owned or governed by the universities, and have frequently been the site of excessive drinking, sexual assault and hazing. That same lack of oversight, some experts say, extends to controlling the virus. Even on campuses that are offering online instruction only, people are still living in some sorority and fraternity houses...

Full story at <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/08/18/us/coronavirus-fraternities-sororities.html>

Online Sharing of Courses?

Thursday, August 20, 2020



You never know who is doing what online. Last July, the University Committee on Educational Policy (UCEP) of the systemwide Academic Senate passed along a proposal (with concerns) that online courses on a particular campus that had been created for the current coronavirus crisis could be shared with other campuses.

The sharing proposal does not seem to be one of allowing students from one campus to take courses via online means on another. Rather, it appears to suggest that canned materials such as videos that were created for a course could be used by another instructor on another campus to teach the same course. Exactly what this idea would mean in practice is unclear. Note that nothing - including the situation before the coronavirus crisis - would have precluded instructor X on campus Y from voluntarily sharing materials (say, PowerPoint slides or videos) with instructor A on campus B. The concern raised by UCEP seems to involve some kind of involuntary sharing.

In any event, you can read the UCEP letter and a response by the Academic Council at: https://senate.universityofcalifornia.edu/_files/reports/kkb-division-chairs-ucep-ilti.pdf

Economic Stalling

Thursday, August 20, 2020



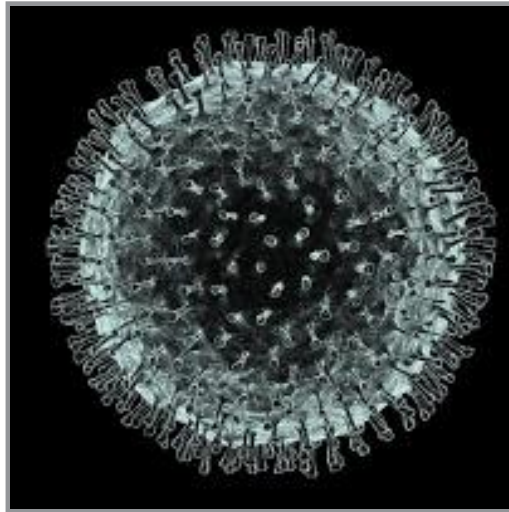
We have been tracking new weekly claims for unemployment insurance as a labor market indicator of the state of the economy. For the week ending August 15th, new claims on a seasonally-adjusted basis were 1.1 million, a jump from last week. Without adjustment, there was also a small jump.

California continued to account for a disproportionate one-fifth share of those collecting unemployment benefits.

The latest weekly claims release is (always) at <https://www.dol.gov/ui/data.pdf>.

Regents Chair has Coronavirus

Thursday, August 20, 2020



From the [Bay Area Reporter](https://www.ebar.com/news/latest_news/296262): *The chair of the University of California Board of Regents revealed this week he tested positive for the novel coronavirus. The news comes as college campuses across the country are beginning to welcome back students to campus, with some already shutting down due to outbreaks of the virus. In a Facebook post Tuesday, August 18, gay former Los Angeles Democratic Assemblyman John A. Pérez disclosed that his "symptoms have been mild so far and I generally feel fine." While he said he was taking "appropriate steps" to isolate himself and protect others, Pérez joked his UC colleagues "sadly" had "cut me no slack on the amount of prep I still need to do for the September Regents meeting."... Full story at https://www.ebar.com/news/latest_news/296262*

Mixed Signals on Economy

Friday, August 21, 2020



We have been tracking the economy via the labor market. Sometimes it seems to indicate a stalled recovery. Sometimes it shows some recovery.

Today, the monthly state labor market indicators are out from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics for the month of July. So we are looking backwards. California's unemployment rate - which remains distorted due to the effect of the coronavirus on data collection - was 13.9%, down from 14.9% the month before. The U.S. overall unemployment rate was lower: 10.2%. So, California remains more hard-hit than the average. Nonfarm payroll employment rose 0.9% during the June-July 2020 period. But employment by that measure is 9.4% below what it was in July 2019.

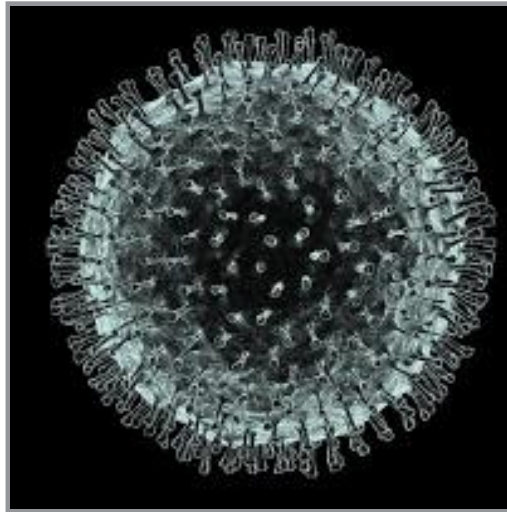
You can find these figures and more at:

<https://www.bls.gov/news.release/pdf/laus.pdf>.

Bottom line: It could be worse. Let's hope it does get there in the months to come.

Faithful Blog Readers Will Not Be Surprised

Friday, August 21, 2020



From an email circulated earlier today:

Dear Bruin Community: On August 3, we announced revamped plans for the fall academic term, which included offering about 8% of classes in person or a hybrid mode and the return of 5,000 students to campus residence halls. At the same time, we stressed that these plans could change based on the progression of the COVID-19 pandemic and the guidance of public health officials. The directives issued last week by the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health (PDF), which require us to significantly curtail in-person instruction as well as restrict on-campus housing primarily to those with no alternative housing options, unfortunately make it clear that we will not be able to proceed as we had hoped. Based on the new guidelines and at the recommendation of the campus's COVID-19 Future Planning Task Force, **UCLA will be moving to remote-only instruction for the fall, with the exception of a limited number of in-person or hybrid courses necessary to train students for essential workforce positions. The amount of student housing we offer also will be reduced greatly.** I am sure you share in my disappointment at our inability to bring more students back to campus. At the same time, the virus continues to pose a significant threat and mitigating health risks to our community must always be our overriding concern in any decision we make. We knew that this outcome was a possibility and have been preparing for it: Across the institution, we will continue to ensure that our students can make progress towards their degrees and that we provide the highest quality educational and co-curricular experience we can during a fall term unlike any other. Please see below for detailed information on our revised plans: **Fall Courses** Per county guidelines, in-person and hybrid instruction now will be restricted to required, advanced courses that provide training for students preparing for essential workforce jobs, and which cannot be conducted remotely. These include certain classes in health and medicine, emergency services, social work, the sciences, and engineering. All other courses will be delivered remotely. Class locations on student study lists and the schedule of classes will be updated over the next week to reflect these changes. We remain committed to providing assistance to those students who may not have access to proper remote learning technologies. UCLA offers several programs that can help with purchasing or borrowing laptops, Wi-Fi hotspots, and other devices. Please visit Bruin Resources and Tools for more information. We also

encourage any student who may be facing financial hardship to reach out to our Economic Crisis Response Team for assistance. **Housing** Under the new county health department directives, universities including UCLA must limit on-campus housing to:

- Students who have no alternative housing options and whose current housing does not provide a safe and appropriate environment or does not provide sufficient ADA accommodations;
- Student-athletes participating in on-campus training and conditioning; and
- Students enrolled in the aforementioned in-person or hybrid courses who do not have alternative local housing options.

Unfortunately, these changes will necessitate a significant reduction in our proposed number of residents on the Hill. Students with current housing contracts soon will be receiving letters from Housing staff to assess whether they fall into any of the above categories; those who do not will be notified of the cancellation of their contract and receive a refund of fees paid. Further information is available on UCLA Housing's COVID-19 information page. **Campus Health and Safety** For those students who will be on campus, guidelines and procedures are in place to help reduce the spread of the virus. Infection control measures include physical distancing, de-densifying campus spaces, and frequent cleaning of residence halls and other facilities. Protocols on face coverings (PDF), symptom monitoring, and COVID-19 testing and contact tracing will remain as outlined in our August 3 planning letter. Beginning this quarter, we will have Public Health Ambassadors on campus to educate and remind students of our protocols. In addition, the campus is currently closed to the general public, pursuant to public health orders. Only individuals who are engaged in essential campus operations, are attending approved in-person courses or living on campus, or are receiving care at UCLA hospitals and clinics are permitted at this time. We appreciate the community's cooperation in observing these public health requirements to minimize the spread of COVID-19. **International Students** We are acutely aware of the difficulties that recent government visa policies, coupled with the shift to remote-only instruction, pose for UCLA's international students — particularly our newly admitted undergraduate and graduate students. Under current rules, newly admitted international students are permitted to come to UCLA for the fall term only if they are enrolled in at least one on-campus course. Unfortunately, with the new, tighter restrictions on in-person instruction, most of these students will not meet the legal criteria for travel to the U.S nor have the ability to lawfully remain in the country. For this reason, we are recommending that unless international students are required by their major or field of study to enroll in one of the aforementioned advanced on-campus courses that must be offered in person, they should stay in their home countries. These students will still be able to enroll for fall quarter remote instruction and make progress toward their degrees. The UCLA Dashew Center for International Students and Scholars will be reaching out to newly admitted international students in the coming days to offer further guidance on travel, visas, and enrollment. **Heading into Fall** With the beginning of the academic quarter just over a month away, we do not foresee further changes to our fall instructional or housing plans, though it is still possible we may need to implement additional restrictions. County and state health officials will be reassessing the situation at regular intervals, and we will work with them to determine whether we may be able to increase our in-person offerings and welcome more students back to campus for winter quarter. In the meantime, each of us must do what we can to help mitigate the spread of the virus by adhering to public health guidance — for the good of ourselves, our families, our communities, and indeed the world. We will continue to update you with the details of our new plans in the days ahead. I also encourage you to visit UCLA's COVID-19 resources page for the latest information on the pandemic and Bruins Safe Online for campus safety protocols and guidelines. Most importantly, I want to thank you all once again for your resilience and understanding

in the face of these shifting circumstances. Despite the challenges, I remain confident that together we can make this fall term a robust, rewarding, and intellectually stimulating experience that brings out the best in our Bruin community. Sincerely, **Emily A. Carter**
Executive Vice Chancellor and Provost

UC-Santa Cruz Campus Evacuated Due to Wildfire

Friday, August 21, 2020



From UC-Santa Cruz website this morning:

Latest information

10:31 am, Friday, Aug 21, 2020 As of Friday morning, the fire is about a mile north of upper campus. There is no fire activity on campus or in the City of Santa Cruz, and we hope that all the campus actions have been taken in an abundance of caution. This morning's news reports indicate that approximately 50,000 acres have burned so far and the fire is 0% contained. The fire continues to advance, and much of what will happen next depends on weather conditions such as wind direction and speed. UC Santa Cruz will continue to provide updates and information about the campus on this page. The residential campus has been completely evacuated, following a Declaration of Emergency by Chancellor Cynthia Larive and a subsequent evacuation order from CalFire. An evacuation center for UC Santa Cruz students and employees living on campus is in the Coconut Grove at the Boardwalk (use entrance B), 400 Beach Street, Santa Cruz. Parking is in the lot adjacent to the Coconut Grove. Evacuation centers for the broader Santa Cruz community are open at Santa Cruz County Fairground, 2601 E. Lake Avenue in Watsonville, and Santa Cruz Civic Auditorium, 307 Church Street, Santa Cruz. People will not be allowed to enter UC Santa Cruz residential campus because of the mandatory evacuation. Access to the residential campus will be limited to first responders and those authorized by UCSC Chief of Police Nader Oweis or his designee. Any person who enters the residential campus, a closed off area or remains in the area after being ordered to evacuate may be found guilty of a criminal offense. Only use 911 for true emergencies. This continues to be a rapidly changing situation, and we encourage everyone to stay safe and informed. We ask each of you to monitor conditions that impact you locally as each of your situations will differ.

- Cal Fire is providing updates through its Twitter account and residents can sign up to receive its email updates.
- CHP is sharing information about road closures.
- Santa Cruz and San Mateo counties have a real-time evacuation map.

Source: <https://status.ucsc.edu/fire/>

New Hawaiian Telescope News

Saturday, August 22, 2020



The Hawaiian telescope issue was one of the key discussion areas in the last Regents meeting.* The project - in which UC is a partner - remains stalled after construction was blocked by demonstrators. According to a news report, the NSF has stepped into the controversy:

*The National Science Foundation has launched an informal outreach to Hawaii about possible funding efforts for the stalled Thirty Meter Telescope project. The effort by the nation's top funder of basic research could lead to a huge influx of cash for the astronomy project on Mauna Kea with an estimated cost of \$2.4 billion, The Honolulu Star-Advertiser reported Thursday. Funding efforts could also trigger a regulatory process adding two years or more to a construction timeline that is far behind schedule. The project recently announced the start of construction was delayed until spring.** ...*

Funding approval would trigger the creation of a federal environmental impact statement and National Historic Preservation Act Section 106 consultation, a process of two years or more. "It will lead to very significant outreach, another opportunity to listen and learn and a renewed opportunity to seek solutions that are acceptable to all in Hawaii," Michael Bolte, a University of California Santa Cruz astronomy professor and Thirty Meter Telescope board member, said last month...

Full story at <https://www.hawaiinewsnow.com/2020/08/21/science-foundation-discusses-funding-thirty-meter-telescope/>

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*You can hear the discussion at:

http://uclafacultyassociation.blogspot.com/2020/07/listen-to-morning-session-of-regents_31.html. See also <http://uclafacultyassociation.blogspot.com/2020/07/telescope-info-for-regents-now-on-agenda.html>.

** <https://www.hawaiinewsnow.com/2020/08/21/science-foundation-discusses-funding-thirty-meter-telescope/>

UC-Santa Cruz Evacuation Continues

Saturday, August 22, 2020



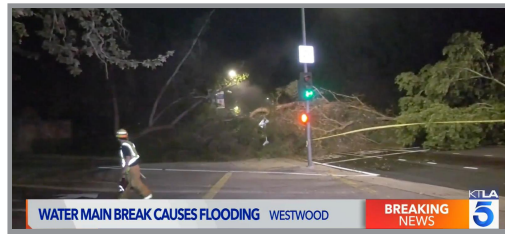
From the UC-Santa Cruz website this morning:

Latest information

8:24 am, Saturday, Aug 22, 2020 As of Saturday morning, the fire remains about a mile north of upper campus. Cal Fire crews are establishing fire lines to try and slow the spread toward the campus and the city of Santa Cruz. Conditions can change quickly, and we continue to monitor the situation closely. There are approximately 63,000 acres involved, and the fire is now at 5% containment, according to Cal Fire's latest update. There is no fire activity on campus or in the City of Santa Cruz, and we hope that all the campus actions have been taken in an abundance of caution. The residential campus has been completely evacuated, following a Declaration of Emergency by Chancellor Cynthia Larive and a subsequent evacuation order from CalFire. An evacuation center for UC Santa Cruz students and employees living on campus is in the Coconut Grove at the Boardwalk (use entrance B), 400 Beach Street, Santa Cruz. Parking is in the lot adjacent to the Coconut Grove. Evacuation centers for the broader Santa Cruz community are open at Santa Cruz County Fairground, 2601 E. Lake Avenue in Watsonville, and Santa Cruz Civic Auditorium, 307 Church Street, Santa Cruz. People will not be allowed to enter UC Santa Cruz residential campus because of the mandatory evacuation. Access to the residential campus will be limited to first responders and those authorized by UCSC Chief of Police Nader Oweis or his designee. Any person who enters the residential campus, a closed off area or remains in the area after being ordered to evacuate may be found guilty of a criminal offense. Only use 911 for true emergencies. This continues to be a rapidly changing situation, and we encourage everyone to stay safe and informed. We ask each of you to monitor conditions that impact you locally as each of your situations will differ. Source: <https://status.ucsc.edu/fire/>

Repeat Flood

Sunday, August 23, 2020



You may recall the flood that occurred in 2014 when a water main broke around Sunset Blvd. and Westwood. It seems to have happened again. Water has apparently gone into the nearby parking facility and athletic field. A large tree seems to have fallen on or around Sunset.

From an email received just before 5 AM today:

Dear Bruin Community,

A city of Los Angeles water main broke shortly before 2:00 a.m. under Sunset Boulevard near Westwood Plaza. Currently, all parts of campus are unaffected except for Charles Young Drive North, parking lot 4, lot 7 and the Intermural Field. The Los Angeles Department of Water and Power is actively working to contain the situation. We wanted to communicate the latest information to you and will share more updates throughout the day.

As of 7:30 AM today, there was nothing listed on the UCLA website. Sunset is reported to be closed in the area.

News reports:

<https://ktla.com/news/water-main-break-topples-trees-sends-water-flooding-into-ucla-campus/>

<https://abc7.com/water-main-break-ucla-flooding-in-westwood-line/6384471/>



Repeat Flood - Update

Sunday, August 23, 2020



From an email circulated around 10 AM today:

Dear Bruin Community,

Earlier this morning, the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP) successfully shut down the water flow to the UCLA campus from the ruptured pipe on Sunset Boulevard, thereby containing the situation. We are now initiating our clean-up plan and ask that the following areas be avoided: Sunset Boulevard between Veteran and Hilgard avenues, parking structures 4 and 7, the intramural field and Drake Stadium. We will keep you informed as LADWP makes repairs and roadways and parking structures reopen.

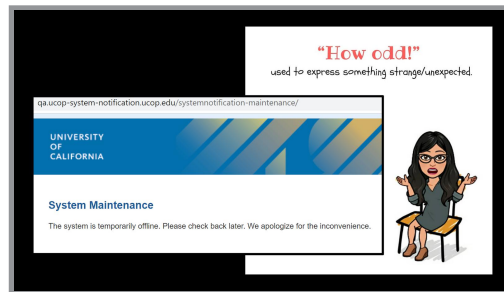
As always, we wanted to communicate the latest information to you and will send updates if the situation changes.

Sincerely,

Office of Emergency Management

Oddity

Sunday, August 23, 2020



The Regents' Health Services Committee is meeting tomorrow. We previously provided the basic agenda, but at the time the detailed attachments were not available.* When you click on the agenda now for the open part of the meeting, the previously-missing attachments are there - and we will review them tomorrow.

Curiously, when you click on the *closed* part of the meeting (as of around 11:15 am today) - so you can at least find out what the subjects are - you are told that the system is down for "maintenance." So it's up for the open session and down for the closed. How odd is that? (And maybe it will clear up tomorrow.)

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* <http://uclafacultyassociation.blogspot.com/2020/08/health-services-committee-of-regents.html>

UC Regents' Health Services Committee Meets Today

Monday, August 24, 2020



Pre-Zoom days at the Regents We noted in a post yesterday that the agenda for today's Zoom meeting of the Regents' Health Services Committee contained the attachments for the open session but not the closed. The closed session attachment is now up but all it says is UC Health litigation will be discussed. No specific cases are noted. All items are for discussion; there are no action items.

After public comments, there will be discussion of UC Health in the context of the coronavirus situation:

- 1) Update on the status of COVID-19 at the national, state, and UC levels.
- 2) COVID-19 clinical innovations such as the Federal Drug Administration's Emergency Use Authorization ("EUA") of pooling at UC San Diego and the Federal Drug Administration's EUA of SwabSeq at UCLA, and innovations around clinical trials.
- 3) The work of the UC Health Coordinating Committee and recommendations for influenza vaccine and systemwide guidance for higher education.
- 4) Updates from the July 17 UC Health leadership retreat.

A second item deals with responsibilities under federal law of Boards of Directors of health care facilities. The item is a bit unclear but it appears to say that UC hospitals don't have such boards formally, but do have various committees that have diffused responsibilities for the functions Boards are supposed to undertake (including the Health Services Committee).

A third item deals with reports on issues such as schools not reopening in person and care in nursing homes.

The final discussion item will be "an update on occupational health and safety data, financial implications, and individual campus experiences. Chief Executive Officers of the medical centers will discuss the impact of COVID19 on labor, patient care activities, and other needs to be addressed to maintain the critical staffing across the UC Health system."

The basic agenda with links to the attachments is at:
<https://regents.universityofcalifornia.edu/regmeet/aug20/hs.pdf>

Closed Session of Compliance & Audit

Monday, August 24, 2020



The Regents' Compliance and Audit Committee is meeting on Wednesday. However, the meeting is entirely a closed session.

All we know from the agenda that has been posted is that the topic is "State Audit of University of California Admissions Policies and Practices."

Given the controversy around affirmative action, use of SAT and ACT, etc., that agenda sounds very interesting. Adding to the interest is the fact that the state auditor is often critical of UC. But whatever will be happening at the Wednesday meeting is a secret.

Secret agenda at <https://regents.universityofcalifornia.edu/regmeet/aug20/auditx.pdf>

Update on UC-Santa Cruz Evacuation

Monday, August 24, 2020



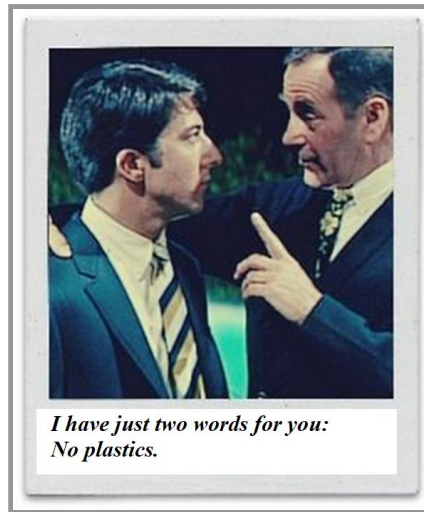
Under a smoke-choked Friday afternoon sky, UC Santa Cruz officials directed students loaded down with suitcases across Beach Street along the nearly deserted Santa Cruz Boardwalk and onto shuttles headed for San Jose State University. Around 15 evacuating students had spent Thursday night in a temporary shelter set up at the Coconut Grove event space, while many others stayed in nearby hotels...

Approximately 40 UCSC will stay in the dorms at SJSU, which has extra capacity in its residence halls because many of its own students have remained home with families due to remote learning...

Full story at <https://voicesofmontereybay.org/2020/08/22/uc-santa-cruz-students-moved-to-san-jose-state/>

(No) Plastics

Tuesday, August 25, 2020



From the Bruin: *The University of California announced plans to phase out single-use plastics on campuses by 2023, as part of the University's plan to achieve zero waste. The policy will eliminate the use of plastic bags in dining and retail locations by Jan. 1, 2021, and remove single-use food service items by July 1, 2022, according to a University press release Monday.*

The policy will also discontinue the use of single-use plastic bottles by Jan. 1, 2023, according to the press release. Dining facilities should provide reusable food service items, such as plates and cups, and to-go facilities should provide reusable or compostable containers as alternatives to single-use plastics, the press release added. The University will also encourage campuses to install water refill stations to help shift away from single-use plastic bottles...

Full story at:

<https://dailybruin.com/2020/08/24/uc-announces-plans-to-phase-out-single-use-plastics-by-2023>

Things to Come at UCLA?

Tuesday, August 25, 2020



USC - already in its fall semester - ended up operating much as UCLA will operate in the fall (late September) with almost all courses online and few in the dorms. The issue for both universities is that there will be students in the local area surrounding the campus, even if not in the dorms.

From the LA Times: *Just one week into fall semester, USC is reporting “an alarming increase” in the number of COVID-19 cases in students among the campus community, according to a Student Health notice sent out Monday.*

In the past seven days 43 cases have been identified and more than 100 students placed in a 14-day quarantine due to exposures, the memorandum from Dr. Sarah Van Orman, chief health officer for USC Student Health, said.

The university is testing students who are symptomatic and those who have had contact with positive individuals, as well as some asymptomatic students. All of the positive cases were related to students living off campus, the statement said.

“This increase comes despite the continued state and county health guidance that significantly restricts in-person instruction and on-campus activities for universities located in counties that are on the state’s COVID-19 monitoring list, including Los Angeles County,” Van Orman wrote.

USC resumed instruction almost entirely online Aug. 17 and is limiting access to campus. But many students remain in private apartments and houses off campus, where they have reported some parties and gatherings of people from different households, a situation one public health expert called a “recipe for disaster.” ...

Full story at <https://www.latimes.com/california/story/2020-08-24/usc-increase-in-covid-19-cases>

Listen to the Regents' Health Services Committee: Aug. 24, 2020

Wednesday, August 26, 2020



The Regents' Health Services Committee met on August 24, starting with public comments involving antivaxxers (related to UC's requirement for flu shots), PPE, coronavirus, nurse staffing, layoffs, and mold issues. Dr. Carrie Byington, head of UC Health, then talked about the coronavirus situation at the California and UC levels including information on testing and research. She discussed plasma treatment - recently in the news (around hour 1:25 at the link below).

There was then a presentation on legal requirements of medical boards that oversee hospitals. It was noted that UC doesn't have boards but rather there are various entities, including the Regents' committee itself, that have diffused responsibility. It was unclear if this arrangement is a problem or just something to note.

After a lunch break, there were presentations about dealing with the coronavirus situation in nursing homes and schools. Finally, there was a presentation on the coronavirus from a UC labor relations/occupational safety perspective. Regents chair Pérez - who had a labor relations background - seemed to be pleased with the presentation.

You can hear the session at the link below:

or direct to:

<https://archive.org/details/regents-health-services-committee-8-24-20>

Just a reminder that we have been preserving recordings of Regents meetings since 2011 - because the Regents have refused to preserve them for more than one year. To find a past meeting, go to archive.org and then search for "University of California," "Regents," and the year of the meeting. The search engine is clunky, but with persistence you will find what you want.

Beware

Wednesday, August 26, 2020

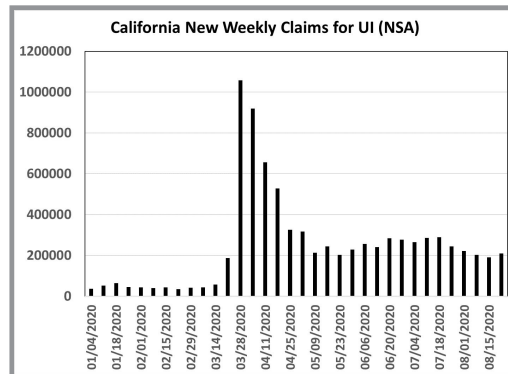


Note: Our previous post on the Regents meeting noted that in the public comments session, there was a seemingly-coordinated group of anti-vaxxers. The item below may be related:

UCLA Campus Human Resources To: Human Resources Advisory Group Dear Colleagues: Recently the UC President, in consultation with UC Health leadership, issued a systemwide executive order requiring all members of the UC community to receive an influenza immunization by Nov. 1, 2020. As a follow up to the executive order requiring flu vaccinations, the UC Office of the President has developed an FAQ for employees . To ensure employees are well-informed regarding the Influenza Vaccine Order, please share this information within your organization. Additional information for UCLA will be distributed as it becomes available. *In addition, UC has learned that an outside market research firm, Consumer Evaluation & Insights , sent a survey about UC's flu vaccination policy to a number of UC faculty and staff with the subject line: "Share your opinion on the UC Flu Vaccine requirement."* **Please be aware this survey was not authorized or commissioned by UC, and employees are under no obligation to complete it.** Because the data from the survey is being collected by an external organization, UC cannot make any assurances regarding the use, privacy or security of the information gathered. If you receive questions about the survey from employees, please let them know they are not required to participate in it, as it's not sanctioned by UC. Sincerely, **Lubbe Levin** Associate Vice Chancellor Campus Human Resources

New Claims and All That

Thursday, August 27, 2020



The latest data on new weekly claims for unemployment insurance are out through the week ended August 22. At the national level there was a slight drop (by current standards in which what would be huge changes are small). On a seasonally-adjusted basis, new weekly claims have been floating around one million during the past few weeks. Without seasonal adjustment, the numbers are a little lower but are telling the same story.

Above is a chart on new weekly claims I have pulled together just for California, a state which continues to have a disproportionate share of those on the unemployment insurance rolls (over a fifth for the week ending August 15). Undoubtedly, the third quarter - nationally and in California - will look better than the second. It will be a positive number rather than a negative. But whether it will be a true V-shaped snapback remains uncertain.

The latest news release on new claims is (always) at:

<https://www.dol.gov/ui/data.pdf>

Data at the state level back to 1987 can be obtained at:

<https://oui.doleta.gov/unemploy/claims.asp>

Partial Relaxation of UC-Santa Cruz Evacuation

Thursday, August 27, 2020



From the UC-Santa Cruz website:

9:08 am, Thursday, Aug 27, 2020

Cal Fire lifted its emergency evacuation order for the UC Santa Cruz residential campus at 6 p.m. on Wednesday. Chancellor Larive has amended the Aug. 20 emergency declaration so that employees who live at Laureate Court, Hagar Court, Ranch View Terrace, Hagar Meadow, and Cardiff Terrace can return to their homes tonight. The rest of the residential campus remains closed, as do the Coastal Science Campus and Westside Research Park. Except for the people living in the employee housing communities outlined above, no one should attempt to access the residential campus, Coastal Science Campus, or Westside Research Park until directed that it is OK to do so. As of Thursday morning, the fire remains about a mile north of upper campus. Cal Fire crews have established fire lines to try and slow the spread toward the campus and the city of Santa Cruz. Conditions can change quickly, and we continue to monitor the situation closely... Source: <https://status.ucsc.edu/fire/>

UCLA Sues

Thursday, August 27, 2020



From the LA Times: *UCLA has filed a lawsuit against Under Armour that seeks more than \$200 million in damages, alleging the apparel company defrauded the school by embellishing its financial standing before luring the Bruins into a record \$280-million contract that it breached by failing to make scheduled payments or deliver its product as promised.*

The lawsuit, filed Wednesday in a California division of United States District Court, comes two months after Under Armour informed UCLA that it was terminating the 15-year contract the parties agreed to in 2016 that represented the largest apparel sponsorship deal in the history of college sports. Under Armour attempted to back out less than three years into the deal, with more than \$200 million left to be paid... Full story at <https://www.latimes.com/sports/ucla/story/2020-08-26/ucla-sues-under-armour-for-more-than-200-million-breach-of-contract>

Does it pass the sniff test?

Thursday, August 27, 2020



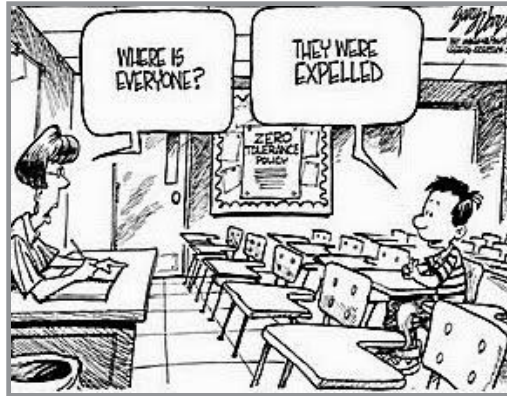
From The Lantern: *The (Ohio State) university Board of Trustees is set to award former University President Michael V. Drake a performance bonus of \$133,792. The Talent, Compensation and Governance Committee approved the bonus to be voted on by the full Board at its meeting Thursday. Drake became president of the University of California system in early August after serving as Ohio State's 15th president for six years.*

The bonus is 15 percent of his annual base salary of \$891,946 at Ohio State, according to the meeting agenda. He will receive an annual base salary of \$890,000 from the University of California and is taking a voluntary, temporary pay reduction of 10 percent through June 30, 2021 due to the COVID-19 pandemic, according to July, 7 Board of Regents agenda...

Full story at <https://www.thelantern.com/2020/08/former-president-drake-receives-133000-bonus/>

Discipline, Online Ed, and Budget

Friday, August 28, 2020



Easier said than done. UC students could face discipline for gatherings that violate health regulations, officials warn

EdSource, 8-27-20, Larry Gordon

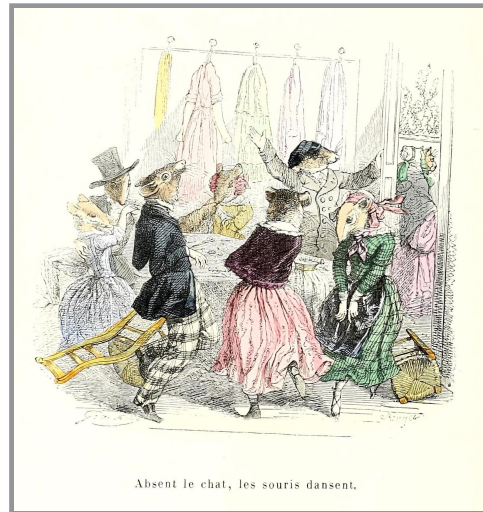
Top leaders of the University of California system warned Wednesday that students could face various disciplines if they violate health regulations and social distancing rules with the type of crowded parties that have spread Covid-19 infections at university campuses across the state and country. UC president Michael Drake, who became head of the 10-campus system this month, and John A. Pérez, chairman of the UC Board of Regents, both declined to specify the type of sanctions for gatherings that exceed health limits or for refusing to wear masks in public. They said those decisions would be made campus-by-campus and would be judged on a case-by-case basis depending on the situation. ...The officials were asked about how life and learning at UC would be changed as a result of the pandemic even after vaccines are widely available. Drake, who is an ophthalmologist, said: "There are things we see changed already that I believe will accelerate in the future." Among those will be the use of telemedicine and distance health monitoring at UC's hospitals and clinics and allowing UC employees to avoid long commutes by working some of their time at home. And he predicted that online classes will become more common than they were before the virus spread. ...Governor Gavin Newsom has warned that UC's state revenues could drop by 10% this year if \$376 million in federal funds earmarked for UC from the Democratic spending plan known as the HEROES Act (Health and Economic Recovery Omnibus Emergency Solutions). That bill passed the U.S. House of Representatives but is stalled in the U.S. Senate amid negotiations between parties. Asked whether UC is basing its 2020-21 budget on wishful thinking, Pérez strongly denied that and said UC is making long term plans to avoid repeating the sharp cutbacks in classes and steep tuition increases enacted during the recession 12 years ago. "We are very cognizant of the experience of the university during the Great Recession. We don't want to replicate some of that bad experience," he said... Full story at <https://edsource.org/2020/uc-students-could-face-discipline-for-gatherings-that-violate-health-regulations-officials-warn/> 639127*

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*Note: We are reproducing the article as written. Our figures show a potentially larger drop.

The Off-Campus Problem

Friday, August 28, 2020



USC has been illustrating the off-campus problem that can arise, even when instruction is online and dorm living is very limited. From Patch:

The number of coronavirus cases confirmed among USC students continued rising Thursday, with the university announcing 104 new cases over the past four days, with the spread primarily attributed to gatherings of students at off-campus housing. "Unfortunately, what we're seeing is ... while we've had reports of a handful of large parties, the majority of students, when we talk to them, these (cases) are being spread through small gatherings -- 10 to 15 people," Dr. Sarah Van Orman, chief health officer for USC Student Health, told City News Service. "Because students often live with multiple other roommates, it's very easy for a single case or a single gathering to spread (the virus)." Van Orman said the university has identified one outbreak originating with a study group, while others were traced to sources including dinners and, in one case, a Monopoly game... Full story at <https://patch.com/california/venice/s/h8243/study-sessions-dinners-104-new-usc-student-coronavirus-cases>

Prof. Lane Hirabayashi 1953-2020

Saturday, August 29, 2020

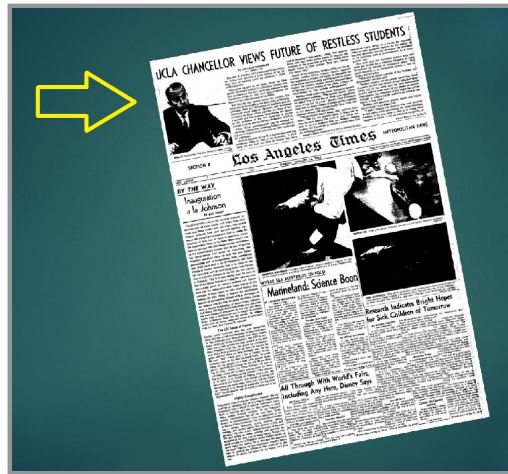


From the LA Times: *Lane Hirabayashi, one the nation's leading scholars on the incarceration of Japanese Americans during World War II who spent decades trying to keep memories of the prison camps from being swept to the back pages of history, has died. Hirabayashi died Aug. 8 in Santa Monica after a long struggle with cancer, his family said. He was 67. The son of concentration camp survivors, Hirabayashi plowed through field notes from the camps, interviewed photographers tasked with making the forced confinements seem like a pleasurable experience to the rest of the U.S. and dove into the back story of his own uncle, Gordon Hirabayashi, who was imprisoned when he protested the roundup of Japanese Americans after the 1941 attack on Pearl Harbor. Gordon Hirabayashi's legal fight reached the U.S. Supreme Court, and though the court ruled against him, his case was cited again and again as President Reagan signed the Civil Liberties Act of 1988, which blamed the wartime imprisonment of Japanese Americans on racial prejudice and failed political leadership. "In the height of the hysteria, I think Gordon was very, very brave," Lane Hirabayashi told The Times in 2006. That year, Hirabayashi became the first professor in the nation to be named to an academic chair dedicated to the study of the incarceration camps and the wartime experience of Japanese Americans. It was a deeply personal appointment. "To me, I feel that this is a family obligation," he said during ceremonies when he was appointed to the George and Sakaye Aratani Endowed Chair in UCLA's Asian American Studies Center...Hirabayashi wrote books on the fieldwork conducted at incarceration camps such as Manzanar in the Owens Valley and Tule Lake in Northern California, and he documented and contextualized the government effort to photograph the prison camps and the arriving or departing inmates in as sunny a way as was possible. In "A Principled Stand: The Story of Gordon Hirabayashi v. United States," he shared his uncle's diaries from his years of bruising legal fights with the government, including his arrest for violating a nightly curfew for Japanese Americans, his imprisonment for resisting being taken to a concentration camp and his profound disappointment when the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that his constitutional rights had not been violated. In 1987, more than four decades later, Gordon Hirabayashi's conviction was finally overturned...Hirabayashi is survived by his wife, Marilyn, his sister, Jan Rice, and several other relatives. Full story at <https://www.latimes.com/obituaries/story/2020-08-27/lane-hirabayashi-japanese->*

[american-scholar-dies](#)

The Way It Was 55 Years Ago

Sunday, August 30, 2020



The January 24, 1965 front page of the LA Times' "Metropolitan News" section carried a lengthy interview with then-UCLA Chancellor Franklin Murphy about "restless" students in the light of the free speech movement (FSM) making news at UC-Berkeley.

Generally, the theme of the article was that the student unrest that was occurring at Berkeley (in retrospect just beginning) probably wouldn't come to UCLA. Of course, it did come to UCLA, albeit with a delay and to a lesser degree.

Some excerpts below give the flavor of the article:

Seated in his attractive, modern office, on the attractive, modern UCLA campus (where, someone has suggested, a student riot would be impossible because there are not enough parking spaces to accommodate the rioters), Murphy recently discussed some of his ideas on the student of the 1960s, a figure he characterizes as "the restless undergraduate."

...

"Student concern for off-campus issues has clearly grown. We live in a time of almost unlimited prosperity but at the same time we have inexcusable poverty and we treat some of our people as second-class citizens. The treatment of the Negro has gotten through to today's bright students as nothing else has in a long time."

...

Today's students are caught between the Scylla of parents pressing them to get good grades so they can get into good colleges and the Charybdis of colleges constantly raising their admissions standards. As a result they come to us right from the pressure cooker, filled with a tremendous tension that can lead easily to resentment."

Finally, Murphy pointed out, the 19th century doctrine of "in loco parentis"—the college taking the place of the parent—is disappearing under the twin pressures of a greater concern for individual liberties in our day and a generation of permissive parenthood.

Today's students, girls especially, simply won't accept the 'in loco parentis' idea," said Murphy.

Dean of Men Adolph Brugger predicted that the Free Speech leaders might not go through with their planned rules test and, if they do, the protest will come to little. According to Dean Brugger, FSM's following on the Westwood campus never numbered above 300 (among UCLA's 23,724 students) and is now down to about 75.

Howard Stromberg, a 25-year-old senior and a political science major, was a member of the 22-man executive committee of the Free Speech Movement. He resigned recently because he thinks the original aims of the group were accomplished when Chancellor Murphy issued the new rules and that the organization has no good reason to continue.

"What you've got there now are some wild radicals, some civil rights militants who are demonstration happy and some young kids who like to join things—give 'em a button, they're happy," said Stromberg. "All the moderates are dropping out."

When you sound the call to the barricades at UCLA, very few people in Bel-Air, Brentwood and Pacific Palisades are likely to respond," said Dean of Students Atkinson.

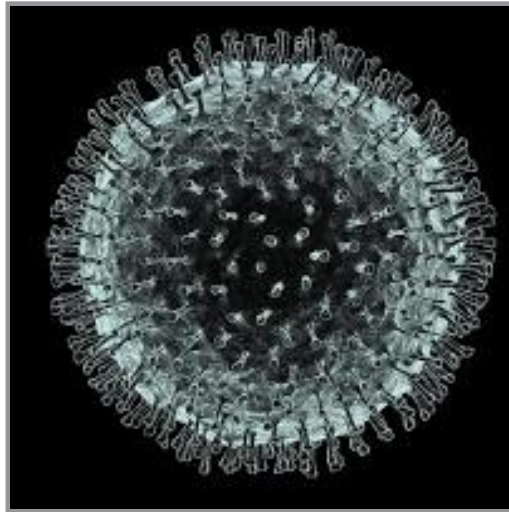
... To put these excerpts in context, the Vietnam War issue was still nascent in early

1965. On the other hand, the civil rights movement was much in the news, particularly turmoil in the South in Selma and other places. Murphy refers to the movement in the second excerpt above. The LA Times coverage of issues related to African Americans in the local area was spotty and mainly featured election-related news when it occurred. In retrospect we know that the Watts Riot would occur in August, followed by the so-called "McCone Commission" report: <https://archive.org/details/ViolenceInCity>. But the Times gave significant attention to demonstrations and violent responses in the South. Closer to home, voters had enacted Proposition 14 the previous November which overturned a state fair-housing law. Litigation related to that proposition was underway. (Prop 14 was eventually overturned.)

Note: The article above is accessible through the UCLA library. Search for "Los Angeles Times" and use the online option.

Stanford closing most of its campus to the public

Sunday, August 30, 2020



Stanford closing most of its campus to the public as a coronavirus precaution

The university has created safe zones for researchers and students to work during the duration of the pandemic

Mercury News

...The zones and restrictions align with the California Department of Public Health's guidelines on universities reopening, officials said. The guidelines require universities and colleges to "limit, to the greatest extent permitted by law, external community members from entering the site and using campus resources, as the number of additional people onsite and/or intermixing with students, faculty and staff increases the risk of virus transmission."...

Full story: <https://www.mercurynews.com/2020/08/29/stanford-closing-most-of-its-campus-to-the-public/>

As we have noted in the past, UCLA's campus is currently being used as a public park. It isn't clear that as a public university, UCLA can do what Stanford is doing.

Enquiring Minds Want to Know

Monday, August 31, 2020



Enquiring minds want to know. Back in mid-August, Chancellor Block circulated an email dealing with job security. If you are an attentive blog reader, you will recall that as part of that message, he threw out a \$540 million price tag of the coronavirus for UCLA:

" UCLA will face the greatest financial impact of any University of California campus, an amount that currently stands at about \$540 million."

As we noted at the time:

The \$540 million figure is undefined in this email. Does it include the health complex? What is included? Lost dorm revenue? Sanitation expenses? Over what time period? To put the number in perspective, the entire cut in the state payment for this fiscal year to the entire UC (this year vs. last year) is about \$483 million if there is no federal funding from Congress.

Source: <http://uclafacultyassociation.blogspot.com/2020/08/no-layoffs-with-qualification.html>

News report often reproduce big numbers without questioning what they mean. Folks read about big numbers - millions, billions - and can't tell whether they are reasonable. The mid-August \$540 million figure for UCLA has recently been picked up in more recent news stories - still without definition or context. See:

<https://www.dailynews.com/2020/08/30/why-no-break-on-uc-tuition-despite-the-move-to-remote-classes-covid-19-costs-are-astronomical/>

<https://www.pasadenastarnews.com/2020/08/30/why-no-break-on-uc-tuition-despite-the-move-to-remote-classes-covid-19-costs-are-astronomical/amp/>

<https://www.ocregister.com/2020/08/30/why-no-break-on-uc-tuition-despite-the-move-to-remote-classes-covid-19-costs-are-astronomical/>

<https://www.mercurynews.com/2020/08/29/why-no-break-on-uc-tuition-despite-the-move-to-remote-classes-covid-19-costs-are-astronomical/>

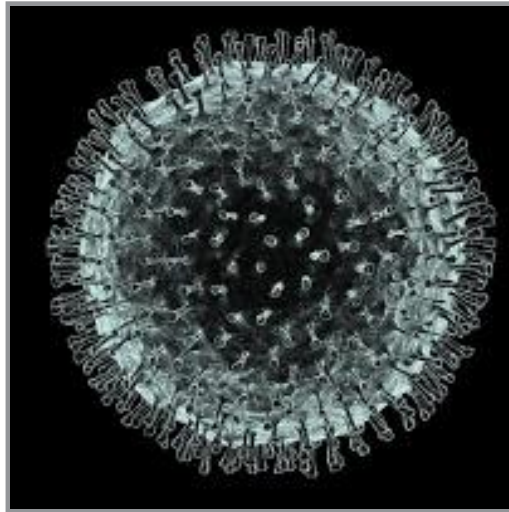
<https://dailybruin.com/2020/08/25/student-programs-representing-historically->

[marginalized-groups-face-funding-cuts](#)

In short, it's time to release a breakdown of the \$540 million cost estimate for UCLA. What portion is lost revenue? What portion is increased expenditure? Where are these losses and increases located? Health facilities? North campus? How much has been, or might be, reimbursed by the federal government? Etc.

UC-Santa Barbara Goes the UCLA Route in Fall

Monday, August 31, 2020



From Santa Barbara News-Press: UCSB officially announced its plans for the upcoming fall semester, deciding to offer remote instruction for nearly all undergraduate classes and limiting undergraduate student housing to those with “special circumstances.” The announcement was made Friday by Chancellor Henry T. Yang in a letter to UCSB’s campus community. “In order to comply with Santa Barbara County, California Department of Public Health, and University of California guidelines, we have decided to offer nearly all undergraduate fall courses via remote instruction, and to limit our undergraduate student housing for fall quarter to only those students with special circumstances,” Chancellor Yang wrote. “We recommend that all other undergraduate students stay home to receive remote instruction. Full refunds will be offered to undergraduates for fall housing contracts. These contracts will be honored in winter quarter or whenever we are able to have our undergraduate students move in.” ... Source: <https://newspress.com/ucsb-finalizes-fall-plan/>

Special Advisor to the Chancellor on Black Life

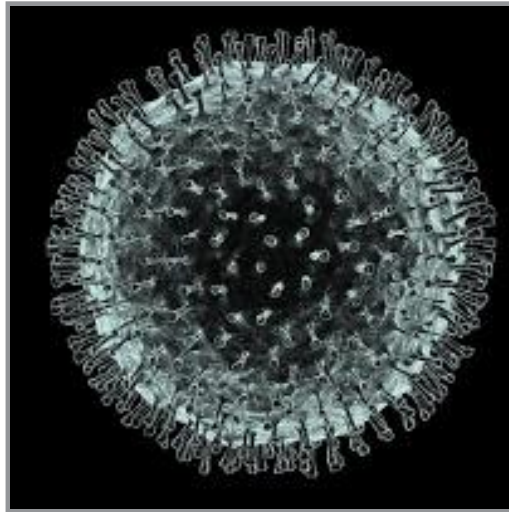
Tuesday, September 01, 2020



From an email circulated yesterday: Dear Bruin Community: Across our nation, and indeed the world, institutions of every type are wrestling with how to vanquish structural racism and inequality. The success of UCLA's efforts in this realm is central to the overall success of our university's mission. **To help UCLA become a more equitable institution, to build upon our support for Black scholarship and teaching and to help enhance the campus climate for all Black Bruins and their allies, I am pleased to announce the appointment of Professor Vickie Mays as Special Advisor to the Chancellor on Black Life.** This appointment is one of several commitments that Executive Vice Chancellor and Provost Emily Carter and I made to the UCLA community in our June 30 message, "Rising to the Challenge." A vital part of the UCLA family since 1979, Professor Mays is a highly regarded thinker, scholar and leader. Her work has focused on understanding the physical and mental health challenges of underserved populations, guiding policy to address these challenges and developing new methodologies to enhance the physical and mental well-being of vulnerable groups. For the past 14 years, Professor Mays has directed UCLA's BRITE Center for Science, Research & Policy, an NIH-funded center with approximately 60 faculty, staff, students and community partners working to eliminate physical and mental health disparities in racial/ethnic minority populations. Professor Mays has long made vital contributions to university governance at UCLA. She previously served as assistant vice chancellor for research diversity as well as chair of UCLA's Academic Senate and chair of the Undergraduate Council. She has chaired or served on a number of Senate and administration ad hoc committees and task forces focused on subjects ranging from responsibility-centered management to data governance. Her record of academic leadership and service on campus earned her the Academic Senate's Lifetime Contributions Senate Service Award this year as well as its Lifetime Contributions to Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Award in 2019. For her academic work, Professor Mays has received the American Psychological Association's Award for Distinguished Contributions to Research and Public Policy. This October, she will be awarded the American Public Health Association's Carl Taube Award for her lifetime career contributions to mental health services research. Professor Mays possesses an impressive combination of incisive intellect, deep leadership experience, substantive expertise and skillful advocacy. These qualities make her exceptionally well-qualified to work with leaders across campus to help guide and strengthen UCLA's efforts to support our Black Bruin family and shine a light on the barriers to opportunity presented by anti-Black racism. I am excited to have Professor Mays join my leadership team and greatly look forward to partnering with her. Sincerely, **Gene D. Block** Chancellor

Here, There, and Everywhere

Tuesday, September 01, 2020



In (early) retrospect, the UCLA decision to continue in fall as it was in spring and summer seems wise:

From AP: *As waves of schools and businesses around the country are cleared to reopen, college towns are moving toward renewed shutdowns because of too many parties and too many COVID-19 infections among students. With more than 300 students at the **University of Missouri** testing positive for the coronavirus and an alarming 44% positivity rate for the surrounding county, the local health director Friday ordered bars to stop serving alcohol at 9 p.m. and close by 10 p.m.*

*Iowa's governor has ordered all bars shut down around The **University of Iowa** and **Iowa State**, while the mayor of Tuscaloosa, Alabama, did the same in the hometown of the state's flagship university.*

"What we're seeing in our violations is they're coming late at night," said Stephanie Browning, head of the health department for Columbia, Missouri. "Big groups gathering. They're not wearing their masks, they're not social distancing."

*In Utah, the city council in Provo overrode a mayoral veto to pass a mask mandate, which includes a \$500 fine for organizing large mask-less gatherings, days before students return to **Brigham Young University** from around the country. But the council was nevertheless worried that college students sharing dorms, bathrooms and showers could become "super-spreaders" and bring the virus off campus, council chair George Handley said.*

"We're already seeing what's happened across the country at other universities," he said.

But a recent warehouse party organized by a BYU student's promotional company called Young/Dumb also raised concern when pictures of hundreds of revelers without masks surfaced online...

Full story at <https://www.sfgate.com/news/article/College-towns-growing-alarmed-over-outbreaks-15522146.php>

CalPERS Slams Door & Prepares to Raise Rates on Long-Term Care

Tuesday, September 01, 2020



Although UC is not part of CalPERS, when that organization began to offer long-term care insurance years ago, it allowed UC employees to participate. But then it substantially raised its initial premium rates, forcing participants either to pay or reduce or drop coverage. Whether what happened was a deliberate low-balling of rates initially or just a miscalculation of the actuarial costs of the insurance really doesn't matter at this point. Either way, participants got a bad deal.

CalPERS is now announcing that it has closed the door to new participants and is preparing to raise rates again:

The CalPERS Board has decided to temporarily suspend open enrollment in the CalPERS Long Term Care Program due to current uncertainty in the long-term care market. Therefore, effective June 17, 2020 and until further notice, the CalPERS Long-Term Care Program will not be accepting new applications for coverage. Applications presently in underwriting will not be processed. In September the CalPERS Board will be considering premium increases for its current Long-Term Care products.

Source: <https://www.calperslongtermcare.com/>

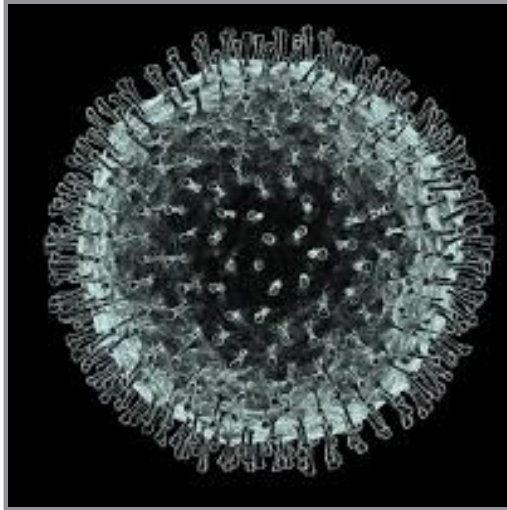
The notice is also on a UC webpage dealing with long-term care:

<https://ucnet.universityofcalifornia.edu/tools-and-services/administrators/long-term-care-insurance-faq.html>

Yours truly has never been enthused about long-term care insurance as a practical matter. While the issue is purports to address is real, the problem is that you have to assume that some private insurance company - at a point in your life where you may not have the capacity to advocate for yourself - is going to do the right thing for you years from now. By that time, the company may have merged or who-knows-what, even if you trust it today. It might have been thought that CalPERS, as a public entity, would behave more reliably. The record speaks for itself.

Coronavirus Kills UC's SAT/ACT Use in Scholarships & Admissions

Tuesday, September 01, 2020



From the LA Times: *The University of California must immediately suspend all use of SAT and ACT test scores for admission and scholarship decisions under a preliminary injunction issued by an Alameda County Superior Court judge.*

The ruling came in a lawsuit asserting that the use of standardized test scores is broadly biased — and particularly detrimental to students with disabilities who seek to take the test during the coronavirus crisis. Superior Court Judge Brad Seligman said in his Monday ruling that plaintiffs had shown sufficient cause to stop the tests for now because applicants with disabilities had virtually no access to test-taking sites or legally required accommodations during the COVID-19 pandemic... Full story at <https://www.latimes.com/california/story/2020-09-01/uc-may-not-use-the-sat-or-act-for-admissions-scholarship-decisions-for-now-judge-rules>

UCLA is the 3rd largest public employer in LA County

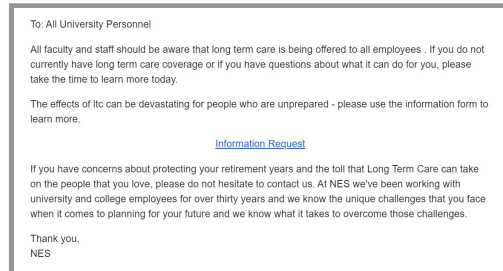
Tuesday, September 01, 2020

Rank	Organization Address	L.A. County Employees Total ranked	People Served	Annual Budget (\$ million) ranked	Headquarters	The List Executive Name Title Phone
1	Los Angeles County 500 W. Temple St. Los Angeles 90017	113,202	10 million residents	24,420	Los Angeles	Scott Brink CEO (213) 874-2234
2	Los Angeles Unified School District 222 S. Broadway Ave. Los Angeles 90017	77,484	664,946 students	6,187	Los Angeles	Archie Bunker Stephens (213) 851-1500
3	UCLA 405 Hilgard Ave. Los Angeles 90095	42,742	42,742 students	3,035	Los Angeles	Geri Brock Chairman (310) 825-4211
4	Federal Reserve Bank 333 W. Los Angeles Blvd., Suite 2000 Long Beach 90802	34,660	US\$ 1.65 trillion	NA	Westminster, D.C.	Katherine Jackson President Director, Los Angeles (562) 439-2600
5	City of Los Angeles 200 N. Spring St. Los Angeles 90012	34,112	614 million residents	15,719	Los Angeles	Joe Gumbert Mayor (213) 472-1500
6	State of California 1000 Capitol Mall, 19th Fl. Sacramento 95834	30,376	California residents	111,840	Sacramento	Carl Healy Director (916) 442-2411
7	Long Beach Unified School District 1110 Broadway Long Beach 90803	11,827	72,000 students	501	Long Beach	Bill Stone Superintendent (562) 597-0440
8	Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority 111 S. Hope Ave. Los Angeles 90012	9,875	10 million residents	2,207	Los Angeles	Public Participation CEO (310) 822-6246
9	Los Angeles Department of Water and Power 170 S. Spring St. Los Angeles 90012	8,400	10 million residents	2,008	Los Angeles	Mark Adams Chief Executive Officer

Click on image to enlarge and clarify. UCLA remains the third largest public employer in LA County according to the LA Business Journal's most recent tabulation.

Delete it

Wednesday, September 02, 2020



Click on image above to enlarge and clarify. We noted yesterday the CalPERS was freezing access to its long-term health insurance plan and getting ready (again) to raise premiums.* Right on cue, the spam message above popped up in UC email accounts. The solicitation is not from UC. My advice: Delete it or risk malware or fraud.

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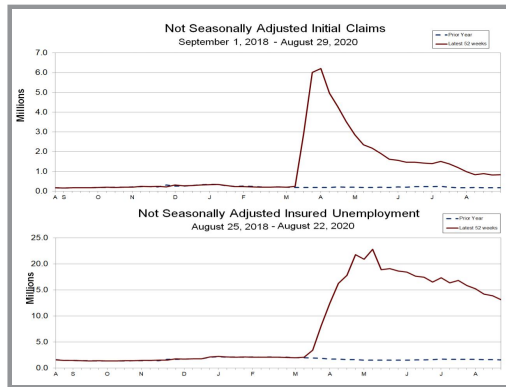
* <http://uclafacultyassociation.blogspot.com/2020/09/calpers-slams-door-prepares-to-raise.html>

Stalling, but with some indication of good news

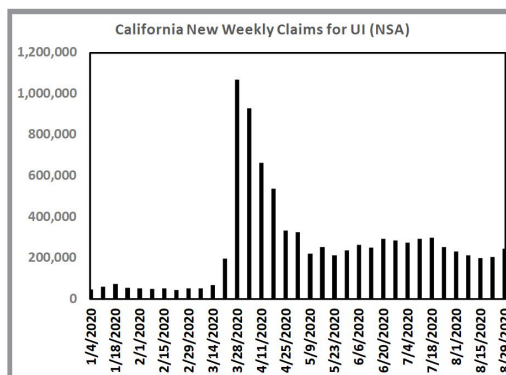
Thursday, September 03, 2020



The latest weekly new claims for unemployment insurance data are out for the week ending August 29 and seem to indicate a stall. The U.S. Dept. of Labor has switched to an alternative method of seasonal adjustment as of September which makes weekly comparisons difficult. However, as can be seen below, absent seasonal adjustment, the numbers at the U.S. level are basically flat. The insured unemployment rate - which lags by one week - did fall, however. So those dropping out of the insured unemployment pool are exceeding those falling into it - which should be a Good Thing assuming they are getting jobs.



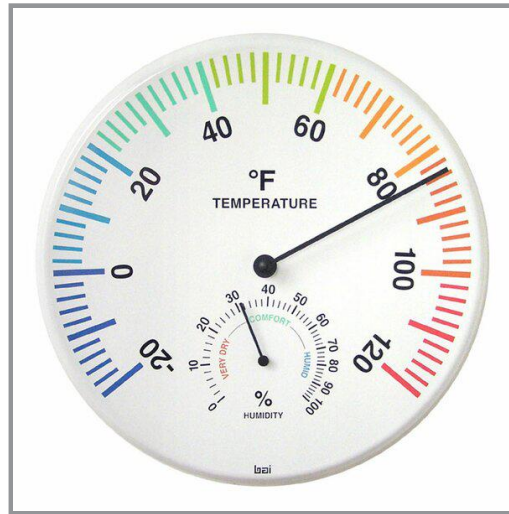
The story was much the same for California as can be seen below. However, California continues to account for a disproportionate roughly one fifth of those receiving unemployment benefits.



The latest new claims release is at <https://www.dol.gov/ui/data.pdf>. There is a link in that release to the database used to create the California chart above. We should get another indicator - the national unemployment data - tomorrow, although those data go back to mid-August.

Climate Change Program

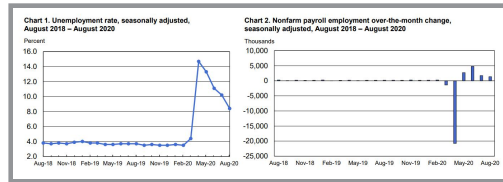
Thursday, September 03, 2020



From the UCLA Newsroom: *In response to the escalating health emergency that is already inflicting substantial damage on people in Southern California and around the world, the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health has created the UCLA Center for Healthy Climate Solutions . “Los Angeles is a city that tackles our toughest challenges by tapping into the innovation and creativity in our own backyard, and this UCLA center will help us build a safer, cleaner and more equitable city and world,” said Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti. Garcetti is chair of the C40 Cities , a global organization of almost 100 cities committed to action against climate change. UCLA C-Solutions, as the center will be known, will collaborate with public officials and community partners, including the mayor’s office, to advance research-based strategies for strengthening communities’ ability to adapt to climate change’s harmful health effects and slowing its impact. “Climate change is the most significant public health disaster we face, with effects that are already being felt and will only become more severe if we don’t take bold and immediate actions,” said Dr. Jonathan Fielding , the co-director of C-Solutions and a UCLA distinguished professor-in-residence of public health and medicine. “If we don’t solve the climate issue, we won’t have a habitable planet. End of story.” Fielding, a national leader in public health, was Los Angeles County’s public health director and health officer for 16 years and recently co-chaired Healthy People 2030, which set national health objectives for the next decade. He said climate change should no longer be viewed solely as a future problem, but as a current crisis. In major cities in the U.S. and around the world, more frequent heat waves are causing increased numbers of illnesses and deaths. Hotter and drier conditions are resulting in longer, more intense wildfire seasons. Warmer ocean temperatures have increased the intensity of hurricanes, cyclones, and tropical storms, and the wide-ranging effects range from flooding to a higher incidence of anxiety and depression... Full news release at <https://newsroom.ucla.edu/releases/center-healthy-climate-solutions>*

More Labor Market Data

Friday, September 04, 2020

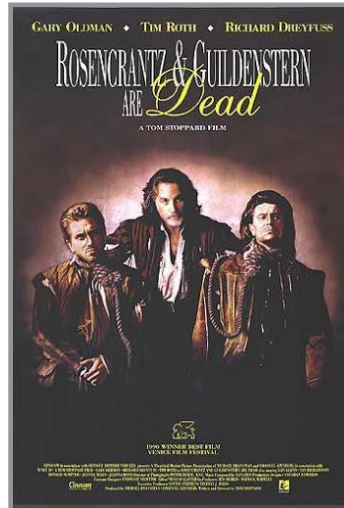


Click on charts to enlarge and clarify. We noted in yesterday's posting on weekly new claims for unemployment insurance that there would be still more labor market data today. Today's information is at the national level; state-level data will not be available for a few more days. And it comes with all the caveats concerning the effects of the coronavirus crisis on data collection and the fact that it is backward looking to mid-August. Still, it shows overall improvement but still a bad situation in absolute terms. The level of employment compared to the same month last year is down by over 10 million. A total of 13.6 million are officially classified as unemployed.

The official news release is at <https://www.bls.gov/news.release/pdf/empsit.pdf>.

UCRS is Rosencrantz & Guildenstern to CalPERS

Friday, September 04, 2020



You may recall the play/movie "Rosencrantz & Guildenstern are Dead" based on the minor characters in Hamlet who nonetheless get swept along by a drama which they can't control but which proves deadly.

In the real world, the larger drama is CalPERS - the scene of endless machinations, scandal, and poor governance - and UCRS (which is not badly run) is Rosencrantz & Guildenstern. The problem is that as scandals and machinations occur at CalPERS, public pensions in general are tarred. While UCRS is in absolute terms a big system, it is small when compared with CalPERS.

Here is the latest from The State Worker of [Sacramento Bee](#):

California retirees group calls for pension fund president to resign

Andrew Seeler, 9-4-20

The head of a group of a California retired public employees organization says that it's time for CalPERS Board of Administration President Henry Jones to go, after the abrupt departure of the agency's chief investment officer last month.

The Retired Public Employees' Association is calling for Jones resignation, saying its demand is "precipitated by your poor judgment and inappropriately secretive manner" in managing the events that led up to the resignation of former CalPERS Chief Investment Officer Yu Ben Meng.

Meng's departure from CalPERS followed the revelation that he had investments in a private equity fund controlled by Blackstone Group Inc., the same firm which Meng had approved a \$1 billion investment back in March.

Meng told The Financial Times last month he disclosed his holdings appropriately.

California's Fair Political Practices Commission has opened an investigation into his disclosures.

Knox's group is one of the organizations that closely follows CalPERS, a \$419 billion fund that administers pensions for 2 million retired and current California government employees.

Her organization endorsed Jones' opponent, former CalPERS board member J.J. Jelincic, in a 2019 election for a seat on the pension board.

Immediately after Meng's resignation, Jones released a statement that showed support for the former chief investment officer and suggested Jones knew about questions regarding Meng's financial disclosures for some time.

"These are private personnel matters and already have been addressed according to our internal compliance protocols," Jones said in early August.

Knox in her letter said Jones should have shared that information earlier with the rest of the 13-member CalPERS Board of Administration.

"Further, as board president, one of the few legitimate powers you possess is the power to share with the board as a whole any information that you are aware is being kept from it. You cannot claim that you lacked the authority to ensure that the full board was kept informed," Knox wrote.

Jones responded in a letter to Knox that he will not resign.

"Your letter is reflective of an organization that has been co-opted by those who care more about a political agenda than the best interests of the members it is chartered to represent. I will neither affiliate with nor support such conduct," Jones wrote.

"I am disappointed but resolute in my belief that RPEA leadership does not currently represent the best interests of retired public employees. Integrity matters, diversity matters and most of all, CalPERS' members matter," he wrote.

Source: <https://www.sacbee.com/news/politics-government/the-state-worker/article245473975.html>

You may not be able to figure out from the above article who the good guys are and who the bad guys are. It really doesn't matter. This kind of thing, which happens regularly at CalPERS, is indirectly Bad News for UCRS. And if you are really interested, you can check out the "Naked Capitalism" blog and look for CalPERS postings: <https://www.nakedcapitalism.com/>

UCLA History: Anti-War Activities in 1930s

Saturday, September 05, 2020



The caption that goes along with this photo:

Members UCLA's "post" of the "Veterans of Future Wars," dressed in World War I-era military uniforms, mug for the camera. The "Veterans of Future Wars" was a satirical organization begun by students at Princeton University. The group formed after the "Bonus Army" of World War I veterans, many of whom had become unemployed since the beginning of the Great Depression, successfully lobbied Congress to pay them the full value of their military bonuses, the sum total of which was \$3.6 billion dollars, to be paid out in 1945. The Veterans of Future Wars claimed that they were likely to fight and perhaps die in the wars the United States would fight over the next 30 years, and as such should be paid their military bonuses while they were still alive to spend them. The organization became quite popular on college campuses in 1936, attracting conservative students who opposed the fiscal policies of FDR's administration, and leftist and pacifist students who saw the organization as a statement against war itself. By June of 1936, the group boasted 50,000 students on 584 campuses. The organization disbanded in April of 1937. Ironically, many of the students who belonged to the Veterans of Future Wars would serve in World War II, including all but one of its founding members at Princeton.

Source: <https://calisphere.org/item/ark:/21198/zz0025ft34/>

UCLA History: Robin Hood

Sunday, September 06, 2020



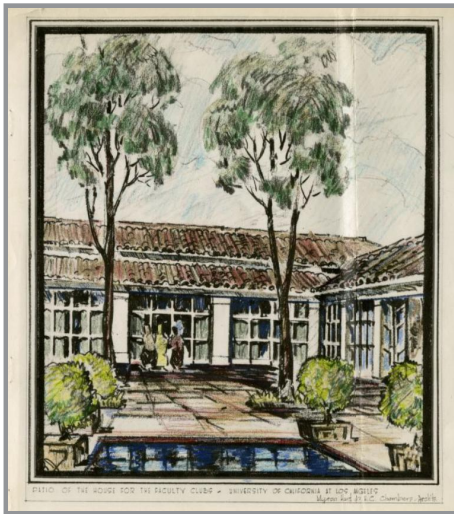
Another old photo. Caption on this one:

UCLA student group the Robin Hood Club, promoting academic freedom and anti-McCarthyism, Calif., circa 1954.

Source: <https://calisphere.org/item/ark:/21198/zz0002pz8s/>

UCLA History: Faculty Club Design

Sunday, September 06, 2020



Architectural design for patio of the Faculty Club

Source: <https://dl.library.ucla.edu/islandora/object/universityarchives%3A28042>

UCLA History: Faculty Club Design - Part 2

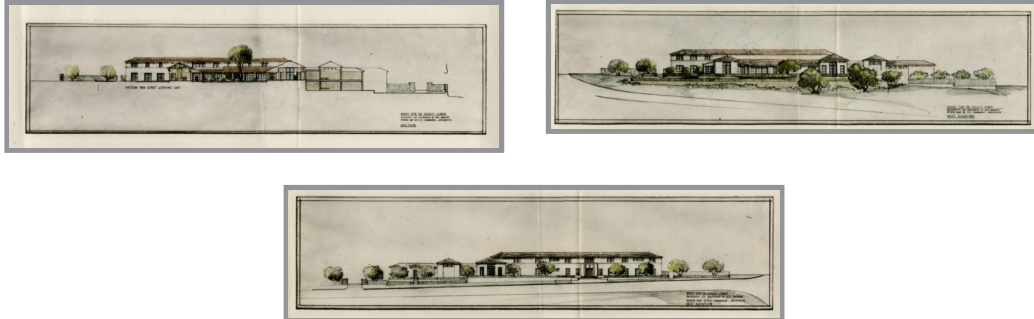
Sunday, September 06, 2020



Caption: Architectural rendering of Lounge for men and women in the Faculty Club
Source: <https://dl.library.ucla.edu/islandora/object/universityarchives%3A28043>

UCLA History: Faculty Club Design (that didn't happen)

Monday, September 07, 2020

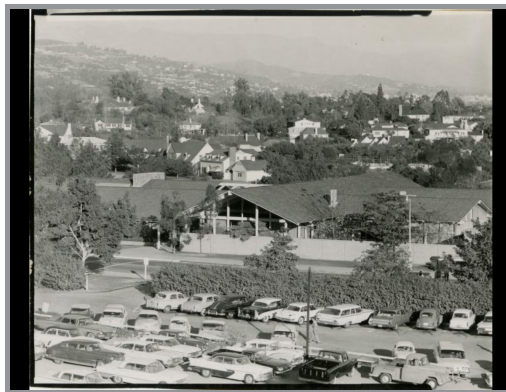


The proposed architectural designs for the UCLA Faculty Club above envisioned what appear to be living quarters. The official caption for the top one reads " Architectural rendering of House for the Faculty Clubs." The official caption for the middle one reads " Architectural rendering of west elevation House for Faculty Clubs." The official caption for the bottom one reads " Architectural rendering of east elevation of House for Faculty Clubs." (Typos corrected in all of the captions.)

Note the plural of "Clubs." Apparently, there were to be separate men's and women's clubs housed within the structure. The Faculty Women's Club long predates the current structure which was eventually built - but without housing - in the late 1950s.

Source: <https://dl.library.ucla.edu/islandora/object/universityarchives%3A28040>; <https://dl.library.ucla.edu/islandora/object/universityarchives%3A28037>; and <https://dl.library.ucla.edu/islandora/object/universityarchives%3A28038>.

The then-recently completed Faculty Club in 1959:



Source: <https://dl.library.ucla.edu/islandora/object/universityarchives%3A28036>

UCLA History: Snow 1949

Monday, September 07, 2020



During the current heat wave, here is a photo of snow on campus in 1949 that might cool you down.

S o u r c e :
<https://dl.library.ucla.edu/islandora/object/edu.ucla.library.universityArchives.historicPhotographs%3A9>

UCLA History: Snow 1932

Monday, September 07, 2020



Another UCLA snow scene to go with our prior post to help you cool off during the current heat wave, this one from 1932.

Source: <https://dl.library.ucla.edu/islandora/object/universityarchives%3A31982>

UCLA History: Normal Legacy

Tuesday, September 08, 2020



UCLA's history began as a state Normal School for training school teachers. Above is a picture of the 1885 Normal School faculty:

C.J. Flatt; Ira More, Principal; Melville Dozier; Emma L. Hawks; Harriet E. Dunn; Mrs. English; Sarah P. Monks; Faculty, Normal School about 1885, Los Angeles

Source: <https://dl.library.ucla.edu/islandora/object/universityarchives%3A34185>.

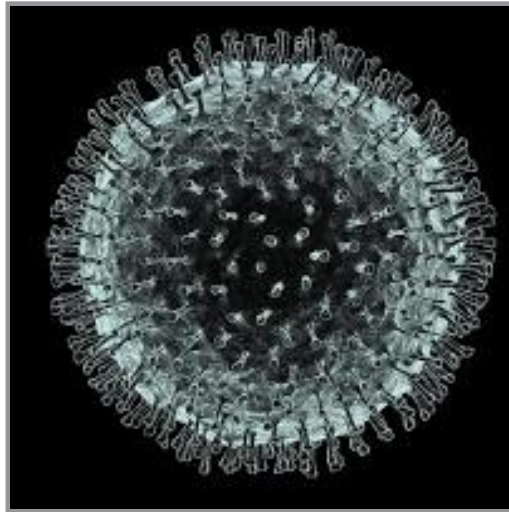
The "details" provided with the photo identifies the School as Vermont Ave. However, the original School was located roughly where the main LA Public Library now sits in downtown LA. It moved to Vermont Avenue and Normal Street later where LA City College is located. UCLA was created out of the Normal School in 1919 and moved to the Westwood location about a decade later. However, teacher training remained part of the mission as the photo below shows. Its caption reads " *Student teachers at UCLA take pledge of allegiance to the flag, circa 1935.*"



Source: <https://calisphere.org/item/ark:/21198/zz0025517h/>

Resistance to Reopening Plan at UC-San Diego

Tuesday, September 08, 2020



600 UC San Diego students, faculty ask university to drop plans to re-open campus

By GARY ROBBINS, [San Diego Union-Tribune](#), 9-7-20

Nearly 600 UC San Diego students, faculty and staff have signed an open letter asking the school to drop plans to place thousands of undergraduates in dorms and resume some in-person classes due to the threat posed by the novel coronavirus. The letter notes that many universities, including Notre Dame and the University of Alabama, experienced COVID-19 outbreaks when they opened dorms and that “to imagine that UCSD will be an exception to this rule is both arrogant and negligent.” The plea comes during a holiday weekend in which 2,600 students were confined to their dorms at San Diego State University, where nearly 300 students have tested positive for COVID-19...

The letter cited a Union-Tribune story that said that 252 UCSD students, staff and healthcare workers have tested positive for the virus even though in-person classes are not yet underway. The letter also cited a different U-T story that said the university had been unwilling to share details of its safety programs in recent weeks...

F u l l s t o r y a t
<https://www.sandiegouniontribune.com/news/education/story/2020-09-07/ucsd-letter-open-campus>

The letter is at:

<https://ca-times.brightspotcdn.com/bf/a9/00e8b37c4db9996b359539e963d2/return-to-learn-open-letter.pdf>

UCLA History: Library Service

Wednesday, September 09, 2020



Caption of the photo above reads " *Library Science faculty sitting around the table looking at Lawrence Clark Powell.*" Powell is at left. He was University Librarian 1944-1961. He was also the first dean the the School of Library Service which was created in 1958. So the photo was probably taken around that time or within a few years thereafter. Source: <https://dl.library.ucla.edu/islandora/object/universityarchives%3A29841>

Regents Meeting Agenda: Sept. 15-17, 2020

Wednesday, September 09, 2020



Back in the day of in-person meetings **Tuesday, September 15, 2020 (Teleconference)**

1:00 pm Investments Committee (open session - includes public comment session)

- Public Comment Period
- Action: Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting of July 28, 2020
- I1 Discussion: Review of Fiscal Year 2019/2020 Performance of UC Pension, Endowment, Retirement Savings Program, Short Term and Total Returns Investments Products
- I2 Action: Approval of UC Pension Asset Allocation, Amendment of Investments Policy Statements (Regents Policy 6101) and Rescission of Asset and Risk Allocation Policies (Regent Policy 6401)
- I3 Discussion: Update on UC Investments Activities Towards Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion and Sustainable Investing

4:00 pm Special Committee on Basic Needs (open session)

- Action: Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting of July 28, 2020
- Discussion: Special Committee on Basic Needs Report

Wednesday, September 16, 2020

8:30 am Board (open session - includes public comment session)

- Public Comment Period (20 minutes)
- Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting of July 29, 2020
- Remarks of the Chair of the Board
- Remarks of the President of the University
- Remarks of the Chair of the Academic Senate
- B1 Discussion: Update of COVID-19 Impact on the University of California: UC Health Issues

11:00 am National Laboratories Committee (open session)

- Action: Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting of July 29, 2020
- N1 Discussion: Overview of the UC National Laboratory Fees Research Program

11:30 am Compliance and Audit Committee (open session)

- Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting of July 29, 2020
- Amendment of Internal Audit Charter

12:15 pm Compliance and Audit Committee (closed session)

Among the legal cases listed:

- *SANDER v. REGENTS – Hearing on Petition Scheduled – California Public Records*

Act – Systemwide. NOTE: This item appears to be the case of Prof. Richard Sander at the UCLA Law School regarding admission practices. Since this matter will be discussed in closed session, we will know what the Regents are told or say.*

- *SMITH v. REGENTS and NAPOLITANO – Motion for Preliminary Injunction Filed – State Equal Protection Claims Challenging Use of SAT and ACT Test Scores in Admissions – Office of the President*
- *TUITION AND FEES REFUND CLASS ACTION – Federal Complaints Amended to Add President as Defendant and Motions to Dismiss and Coordinate are Pending – Claims Seeking Refunds Based on COVID-Related Actions – Systemwide*

1:15 pm Governance Committee (closed session)

2:15 pm Governance Committee (open session)

- Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting of July 29-30, 2020
- Approval of Retroactive Approval for Athletic Contract Components that Exceeded September 2008 Parameters, as Discussed in Closed Session
- Approval of Incentive Compensation Using Non-State Funds for Fiscal Year 2019-20 for Chief Investment Officer and Vice President – Investments, Office of the President, as Discussed in Closed Session Approval of Compensation for Director of Intercollegiate Athletics, Los Angeles Campus, as Discussed in Closed Session
- Amendment of Bylaw 21.7 – Regent Compensation - Regarding Regents' Participation in Uncompensated University-Affiliated Positions
- Dates of Regents Meetings for 2022
- Resolution to Exclude Access to Federal Classified Information. (This item excludes President Drake from access to classified material until his clearance is approved by federal authorities.)

Concurrent Meetings

2:45 pm Finance and Capital Strategies Committee (open session)

- Approval of the Minutes of the Meetings of July 30, 2020

Consent Agenda:

- A. Preliminary Plans Funding, Irvine Campus Medical Complex, Irvine Campus
- B. Preliminary Plans Funding and External Financing, Health and Behavioral Sciences Building, Merced Campus
- C. Approval of Design Following Action: Pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act, Welcome Center Building on Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory's Main Campus in Berkeley
- D. Preliminary Plans Funding Amendment, Working Drawings Funding, Scope, and External Financing, Hillcrest Outpatient Pavilion and Parking, San Diego Campus
- E. Conforming Amendment to University of California 2020-21 Budget for State Capital Improvements and Approval of University of California 2021-22 Budget for State Capital Improvements
- Budget, Scope, External Financing, and Design Following Action: Pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act, Theatre District Living and Learning Neighborhood, San Diego Campus
- New Markets Tax Credits for "the U" in Downtown San Diego, San Diego Campus
- Discussion: Data Hub New Academic Building, Berkeley Campus
- Discussion: UC Davis 2020 Long Range Development Plan and 2020 Physical Design Framework Amendment, Sacramento Campus
- Discussion: Update on the 2020-21 Operating Budget

Upon end of open Finance and Capital Strategies Committee (closed session)

2:45 pm Academic and Student Affairs Committee (open session)

- Action: Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting of July 30, 2020
- A1 Discussion: Planning and Evaluation of COVID-19 Academic and Student Impacts
- A2 Discussion: University of California Student Academic Preparation Strategies
- A3 Discussion: UC Scout: Online A-G Courses to Support Student Academic Preparation
- A4 Discussion: Update on Undergraduate Admissions Test Feasibility Study

Thursday, September 17, 2020

8:30 am Board (open session - includes public comment session)

- Public Comment Period
- Approval of the Minutes of the Meetings of July 7 and July 30, 2020
- Remarks from Student Associations
- B2 Discussion: Strategic Plan for UC Health Division, Office of the President
- B3 Discussion: 2020 UC Accountability Report: Highlights and UC 2030 Updates
- B4 Discussion: Review of 2009 Budget Action:s. (This item deals with Action:s taken to deal with the impact of the Great Recession of 2008.)
- B5 Discussion: Proposition 209: Primer on UC History and Impacts
- B6 Action: Adoption of Regents Policy Prohibiting Use of Quotas and Caps in Public Contracting, Employment and Admissions
- B7 Action: Authorization to Join Multi-University Member LLC to Facilitate Licensing of University Patent Assets

Upon end of Board open Board (closed session) ===== Source:
<https://regents.universityofcalifornia.edu/meetings/agendas/sept20.html> ===== * **UPDATE:**
 From the LA Times (9-9-20):

...Richard Sander, a UCLA economist and law professor, on Tuesday sharply challenged a recent UC Berkeley study that concluded Black and Latino California students experienced lower enrollment, graduation rates and subsequent wages following passage of Proposition 209, which banned preferential treatment in public education and employment based on race, ethnicity or sex. Sander said the study erroneously claimed that enrollment of underrepresented minorities fell by about 800 students per year after the ban took effect in 1998. Their freshman enrollment did fall in 1998, Sander said, but began growing after that. Graduation rates also increased, as did attainment of degrees in science, technology, engineering and math fields, he said. Sander called the UC Berkeley paper "worse than useless" in its current form, speaking out at a press briefing organized by opponents of Proposition 16, a proposed constitutional amendment on the Nov. 3 ballot that would repeal the affirmative action ban. He has asserted that the ban was "arguably the best thing that ever happened" to racial minorities because it pushed UC campuses to heavily invest in their academic preparation and helped raise their graduation rates.

Zachary Bleemer, the UC Berkeley study's author and research associate at the campus Center for Studies in Higher Education, said he stood by his work but declined to comment further. He did the study for the UC Office of the President...

In a statement, the university said Bleemer was given access to the data as an employee of UC's Institutional Research and Academic Planning office and not through a public disclosure. Federal law and the privacy rights of applicants and students prevent UC from publicly disclosing any "highly personal and confidential data" that is sought by Sander, the statement said, and a data set he is requesting in a lawsuit "does not exist and would take UC staff months to compile." The California Public Records Act does not require organizations to create new records, it said...

Source: <https://www.latimes.com/california/story/2020-09-09/uc-debates-affirmative-action-black-latino-students>

The "Berkeley study" referenced above is at: http://zacharybleemer.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/AA_Mismatch_Paper.pdf

The Sander response to the Berkeley study is at: <https://californiansforequalrights.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/Sander-Rebuttal.pdf>

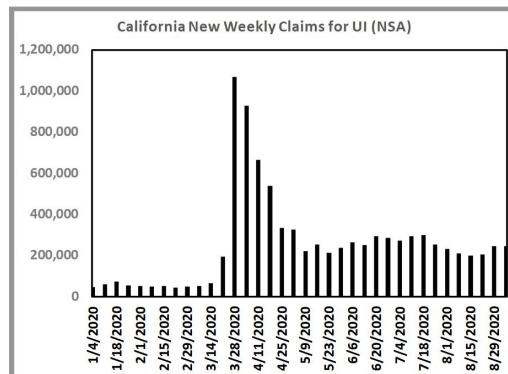
Another Stall Warning from the New Claims Data

Thursday, September 10, 2020



The data for new weekly claims for unemployment insurance are out for the week ending Sept. 5. New claims from that week were at the same level with revised estimates from the week before (884,000) on a seasonally-adjusted basis for the U.S. as a whole. Without seasonal adjustment, claims rose by about 20,000.

California accounted for over a fifth of those actually receiving benefits nationally, a disproportionate share, based on data from the prior week (the latest available). The California share has floated around a fifth for some time. The chart below for California - as with the national data - suggests a stall.



As usual, the latest claims data can be found at <https://www.dol.gov/ui/data.pdf>.

UCLA History: Computerizing the Library

Thursday, September 10, 2020

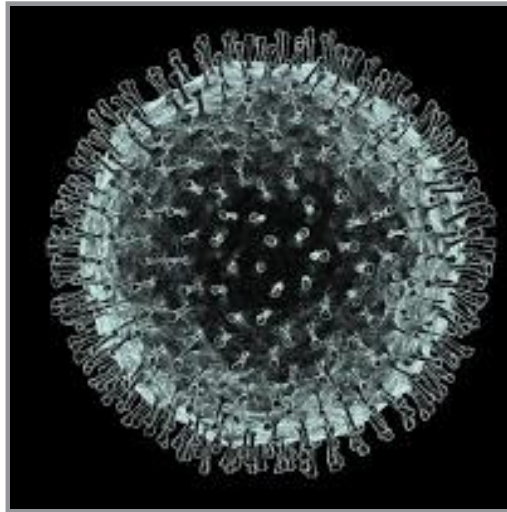


The photo above is reported to be a celebration of the installation of a computerized library system in 1977. The location appears to be in what is now the Young Research Library.

Source: <https://dl.library.ucla.edu/islandora/object/universityarchives%3A29305>

The Winter's Tale Begins at CSU

Friday, September 11, 2020



From UCLA's perspective, it may seem early to worry about winter quarter. But read below (from [MyNewsLA](#)):

The Long Beach-based California State University system, which is holding primarily virtual courses during the fall term, will continue with predominantly online instruction for the academic term beginning in January, Chancellor Timothy White announced Thursday.

In a message to the university community, White said he wanted to make the announcement early so students and staff will have plenty of time to prepare...

He said the decision was made "after extensive consultation with campus presidents and other stakeholders" and with regard to the status of the COVID-19 pandemic. White said the CSU's 23 campuses will publish lists of course offerings in the coming weeks so students can select classes and campuses can allocate resources to meet student demand...

Full story at <https://mynews1a.com/business/2020/09/10/csu-to-continue-virtual-instruction-for-classes-beginning-in-january/>

UCLA History: Sept. 11, 2001

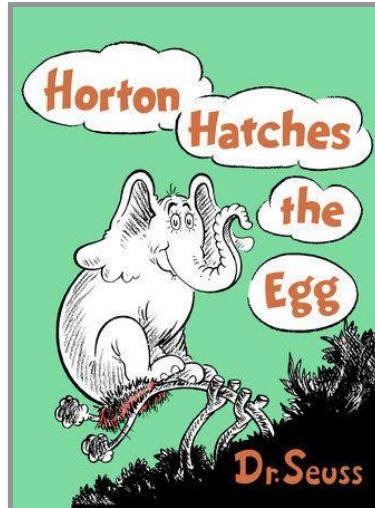
Friday, September 11, 2002



On September 11, 2001, students at UCLA watch TV coverage of the attacks.

Horton Makes Decisions at UC-San Diego and UCOP

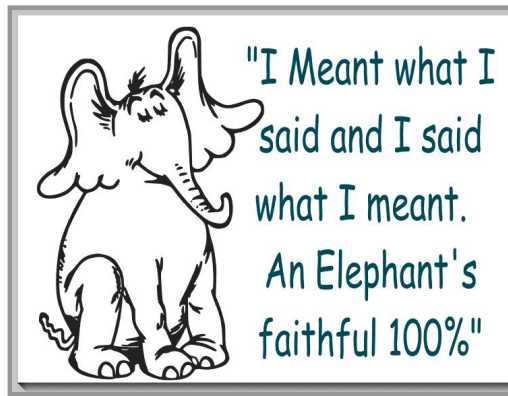
Friday, September 11, 2020



UC-San Diego happens to house a collection of papers from children's book author "Dr. Seuss" (Theodore Geisel).^{*} I was reminded of that fact in reading the item below about UC-San Diego barreling ahead with its reopening plan. Dr. Seuss, among other books, wrote "Horton Hatches the Egg." If you are in the tiny minority unfamiliar with the book, here is the plot:

*Horton Hatches the Egg is a children's book written and illustrated by Theodor Geisel under the pen name Dr. Seuss and published in 1940 by Random House. The book tells the story of Horton the Elephant, who is tricked into sitting on a bird's egg while its mother, Mayzie, takes a permanent vacation to Palm Beach. Horton endures a number of hardships but persists, often stating, "I meant what I said, and I said what I meant. An elephant's faithful, one hundred percent!" Ultimately, the egg hatches, revealing an elephant-bird, a creature with a blend of Mayzie's and Horton's features.***

Put another way, Horton is stubborn and, having made a decision, will not be persuaded by circumstances to change it. Large bureaucracies often behave like Horton. Once decisions are made - which may involve an elaborate process - they tend to stick with them. So you can look at UC-San Diego's decision on reopening in that way. From KPBS:



While universities nationwide and in other parts of San Diego County are seeing spikes in COVID-19 cases, UC San Diego is holding firm in its ambitious plan to bring back thousands of students back to campus later this month. All told, about 16,000 undergraduate and graduate students will attend classes on campus in some capacity and 7,000 undergraduates will be living in dorms. These numbers differ greatly from those at other UC campuses.

In response to spikes of COVID-19 cases in recent months, both UC Berkeley and UCLA announced plans to scale back reopenings. Berkeley started its school year in late August with no in-person classes and just 2,200 students in campus housing. At UCLA, very few classes will be in-person and only about 700 students will live on campus.

UC San Diego officials say they feel confident about bringing so many students back because they've developed a rigorous safety plan that includes twice-a-month testing for all students and staff and single occupancy dorm rooms. Yet, some students and faculty believe the reopening plan is doomed to fail.

"I don't know what needs to happen before UCSD can bring students back, but I know right now is probably not the time to do it," said Daniel Heinz, a PhD student in neurobiology at UCSD.

Heinz points out that some other universities nationwide opened with similar plans as UCSD and are still having outbreaks, and says "we should be reconsidering the validity of our models."

On Monday, Heinz sent an open letter signed by 600 students, alumni and faculty urging the university to reconsider its reopening plan. UC San Diego officials, however, say they're confident the plan will work.

"We have to try to figure out how to operate our schools, our businesses and our society in a new environment in which we're gonna have the coronavirus looking over our shoulders for quite a while," said Robert Schooley, a professor of medicine at UCSD who helped design the reopening plan...

Full story at <https://www.kpbs.org/news/2020/sep/10/ucsd-standing-firm-ambitious-reopening-plan-despit/>

I have no doubt that no matter what happens, if the bureaucracy wants the plan to "work," it will be found to "work," whatever actually happens. It's hard to let go of a decision once

made. And the longer you stick with it, the harder it is to reverse. But it isn't impossible, as the UCLA example shows.

Similarly, blog readers may recall our recent post on the upcoming Regents agenda which noted that in closed session there will be discussion of a lawsuit brought by UCLA Law Professor Richard Sander to obtain certain data on student admissions, Prop 209's ban on "affirmative action," etc., via a Public Records request.*** Reversal of 209 is on the November ballot and its repeal is supported by the Regents, the governor, etc., and probably will succeed.**** UCOP apparently gave related data to a Berkeley grad student by making the student an employee and then commissioning him to write a report. While there are legitimate concerns about privacy of individual student records, UCOP could simply commission Prof. Sander to develop a report and have him adhere to whatever privacy protocols were applicable to the Berkeley grad student.

The problem is that a bureaucracy has made a decision to resist the data request - presumably because it is feared Sander will not produce a report UCOP wants - and thus UCOP is having a Horton problem. UCOP thus sticks with litigation to defend its decision rather than make a simple accommodation. If the folks at UCOP would just take a deep breath and ask themselves what terrible things would happen if Prof. Sander wrote a report in some academic journal that questioned UC practices, an accommodation could be made. The simple answer is nothing terrible would happen. And generally the rule should be that if a UC faculty member makes a data request, the default response should be to make the data available with whatever protocols for confidentiality are needed.

Maybe our new UC president will take a look and do the right thing.

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* <https://library.ucsd.edu/research-and-collections/collections/special-collections-and-archives/collections/the-dr-seuss-collection.html>

**Source: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Horton_Hatches_the_Egg

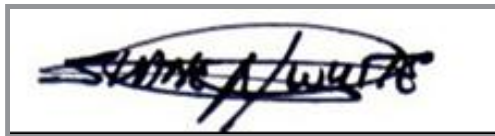
*** <http://uclafacultyassociation.blogspot.com/2020/09/regents-meeting-agenda-sept-15-17-2020.html>

****I haven't seen any recent polling data but another symbolic issue - a 1990s ban on bilingual education - was reversed by voters in 2016.

Changes at the Senate & Town Hall

Friday, September 11, 2020

*From an email circulated today:***Members of the Academic Senate** Dear Colleagues, Welcome to a new academic year! I am delighted to introduce myself as your new UCLA Academic Senate chair. I am looking forward to representing the UCLA Division of the Academic Senate through the University's process of shared governance. Along with its impact on our teaching, research and service missions, the COVID-19 pandemic has direct impact on all members of the university community including our students and those whom we serve directly and indirectly. The University is facing enormous fiscal exigency whilst our campus is in transition to a new budgetary model. The State's recovery is typically slow and its funding of higher education often suffers lasting damage. Society has become even more divided and polarized. Together, we will face many challenges; but we will find opportunities to do better and harness pressures to evolve into a more diverse and better place. Together, we must all do more to tangibly improve social justice. The Senate must and will step up to the plate. Jody Kreiman, Professor in Residence, Head & Neck Surgery and Linguistics, joins me as the Vice Chair/Chair Elect. I am grateful for Michael Meranze's exemplary service as Chair during the unforgettable 2019-2020 academic year. He now moves into the Immediate Past Chair position. I am glad that his wisdom and experience will continue to guide the Senate. Please visit the Academic Senate website to find out more about us. Please join me in thanking Joe Bristow for his three years of distinguished service in the Chair leadership roles. He created lasting positive changes across the campus and within the Senate. Please feel free to reach out to me at swhite@senate.ucla.edu. **I look forward to having you join us at the upcoming Faculty Town Hall on Fall 2020 Teaching on Thursday, September 17, 2020, from 2:00pm to 3:00pm via Zoom videoconference. Please RSVP your attendance and submit any questions by Tuesday, September 15, 2020.** Sincerely,

A rectangular box containing a handwritten signature in black ink. The signature appears to read "Shane White" with a stylized flourish at the end.

Shane White Chair, UCLA Academic Senate

CRISPR Toast?

Saturday, September 12, 2020



The old Patent Office: 1924

From time to time, items relating to the seemingly-endless CRISPR gene-editing technology patent litigation involving UC and others appear. Earlier reports on this topic can be found by using the search engine and typing in "CRISPR." Below is a link to the latest item from Science Magazine, an account that doesn't sound great for the UC side:

<https://www.sciencemag.org/news/2020/09/latest-round-crispr-patent-battle-has-apparent-victor-fight-continues>

Excerpt: ...A statement from a University of California spokesperson says it is "pleased" with the [September 10th] ruling, noting that it denied several of the Broad [Institute's] motions.* The [Patent Trial and Appeal Board - PTAB] "has ruled in our favor in most instances and will continue with the interference proceeding to determine which party was the first to invent CRISPR in eukaryotes," the statement says. "[W]e remain confident that the PTAB will ultimately recognize that the [Jennifer] Doudna [of UC-Berkeley] and [Emmanuelle] Charpentier [of Max Planck Institute] team was first to invent the CRISPR-Cas9 technology in eukaryotic cells." A statement issued by the [opposing] Broad [Institute] calls for something akin to a peace treaty. "Although we are prepared to engage in the process before the PTAB and are confident these patents have been properly issued to Broad, we continue to believe it is time for all institutions to move beyond litigation and instead work together to ensure wide, open access to this transformative technology," the statement says. "The best thing, for the entire field, is for the parties to reach a resolution and for the field to focus on using CRISPR technology to solve today's real-world problems."



Many observers of the patent battle long have hoped that the Broad and [the team involving UC] will reach a settlement, but [Jacob Sherkow, a patent attorney] thinks it's less likely now. "Almost every outcome is stacked in Broad's favor," he says. If the [team involving UC] wins, he says, they will have the patent for the single molecule guide, but the Broad will not lose its eukaryotic patent and, at worst, will have to share it. If [the team involving UC] loses, "they're toast, they come away empty," says Sherkow. "But I've been wrong about settlement before so there's every expectation that I'll be wrong again."

The PTAB ruling does not specify a date for its next hearing.

==== *Broad Institute of MIT and Harvard was launched in 2004 to improve human health by using genomics to advance our understanding of the biology and treatment of human disease, and to help lay the groundwork for a new generation of therapies.

Source: <https://www.broadinstitute.org/about-us>

At least they could pretend

Saturday, September 12, 2020



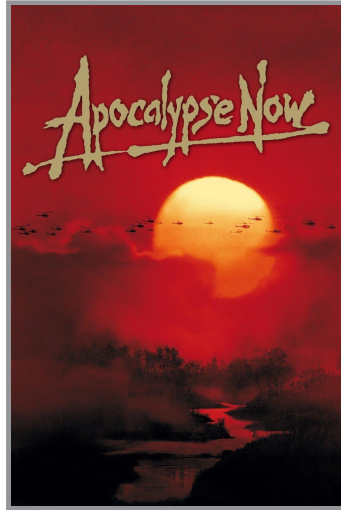
With next week's Regent meeting in mind, we'd like to hope the Regents would at least pretend to pay some attention to what the faculty representative is saying - unlike what has occurred in the recent past:

or direct to <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9bbsF9WaPx8>.

From time to time, we'll post this reminder.

Take a Deep Breath (not)

Saturday, September 12, 2020



From an email circulated today:

UCLA CAMPUS CONTINUES TO ONLY BE OPEN FOR ESSENTIAL OPERATIONS

While the Bobcat fire remains active and continues poses no immediate threat to campus, we recognize the Air Quality currently on campus is considered unhealthy for all groups. Additionally, some members of our campus community live in evacuation areas or may be impacted by road closures. We ask everyone to put safety first. Those still performing essential functions on campus should assess their ability to safely commute to campus. UCLA continues to closely monitor the fire, and we are actively coordinating with the Los Angeles Fire Department.

What you should know

Threat to campus: No immediate threat

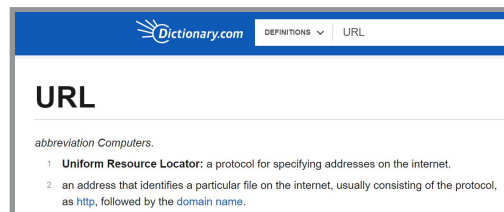
Air quality : Based on current data, air quality is considered unhealthy for all persons. All persons should limit prolonged outdoor work or heavy exertion. Outdoor recreational activity should be shortened or modified, and if possible, moved indoors, delayed, postponed, relocated or canceled. Employees performing outdoor work for more than one hour should be reassigned, or be provided N-95 respirators for voluntary use. Air quality levels could fluctuate throughout the day and we will update you on any changes. For more information and regular updates, visit: www.bso.ucla.edu

UCLA History: URL

Sunday, September 13, 2020



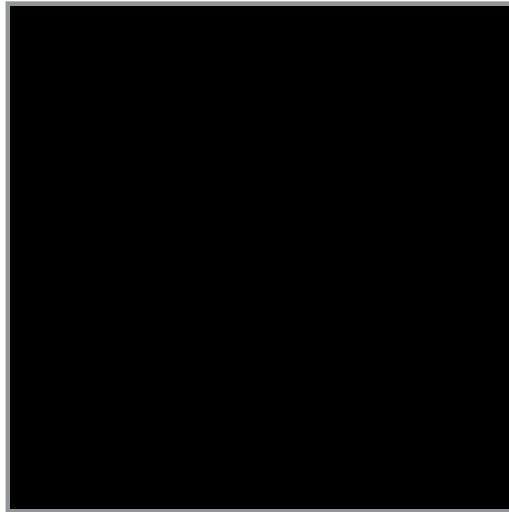
Sequence of photos of construction and completion of University Research Library (URL), now Young Research Library (YRL) 1963-64. Note: Back in the day before the internet, the name URL had only one meaning. Nowadays, it's lucky we changed it to YRL:



Source of photos: <https://dl.library.ucla.edu/islandora/object/universityarchives%3A1>
(search for University Research Library)

More UC Students: Legal Review

Sunday, September 13, 2020



One of the legal cases the Regents will be discussing in closed session is Save Berkeley's Neighborhoods vs. UC Regents. The Berkeley case, as the article below notes, has implications for all campuses that have been increasing their enrollments.

Neighborhood group wins round in suit with UC Berkeley over impact of rising student population

Bob Egelko, San Francisco Chronicle, 9-10-20

The California Supreme Court is allowing a neighborhood group to sue UC Berkeley for allegedly failing to consider and reduce the local impacts of an enrollment increase of more than 8,000 since 2005. Among those effects, according to the suit by Save Berkeley's Neighborhoods, are increased use of off-campus housing by students, displacing tenants and adding to homelessness; more noise, trash and traffic; and greater burdens on Berkeley's police, fire and ambulance services.

An Alameda County judge rejected the group's demand for an environmental impact report last year, saying enrollment increases are not a "project" that requires review under state law to study and limit the potential harms. But the First District Court of Appeal in San Francisco ruled in June that a rising student population is part of campus growth that requires environmental review when its impacts are significant. The ruling became final Wednesday when the state Supreme Court denied review of the university's appeal. Justice Mariano-Florentino Cuéllar voted to hear the case, but three more votes were needed to grant review by the seven-member court. Justice Joshua Groban did not participate, for reasons not publicly disclosed.

"The Supreme Court has vindicated our efforts to hold UC Berkeley accountable for the severe impacts on our community from its massive enrollment increases, which they made without public notice or comments," said Phillip Bokovoy, the neighborhood group's president. "UC Berkeley, and all other UC campuses, will now be required to study the environmental impacts and implement mitigation for enrollment increases."

The case is not yet fully resolved, however, as a Superior Court judge must still decide whether Save Berkeley's Neighborhoods has enough evidence to support its allegations of potential environmental harm...

The case is Save Berkeley's Neighborhoods vs. UC Regents, S263673.

Full story at <https://www.sfchronicle.com/bayarea/article/Neighborhoods-group-wins->

[round-in-suit-with-UC-15557648.php](https://regents.universityofcalifornia.edu/regmeet/sept20/auditx/round-in-suit-with-UC-15557648.php). Reference to the case is at <https://regents.universityofcalifornia.edu/regmeet/sept20/auditx>.

SAT/ACT: Still With Us (maybe)

Sunday, September 13, 2020



UC seems to be on the losing side of various court cases. See below and our previous post on this blog.

UC appeals judge's prohibition on SAT, ACT scores in admissions

Lauren Hernández, [San Francisco Chronicle](#), 9-11-20

The University of California is appealing a judge's ruling that prohibits the university from accepting SAT and ACT scores in admission reviews. UC filed the appeal on Wednesday, a week after Alameda County Superior Court Judge Brad Seligman issued an injunction against the university system, saying "Nondisabled, economically advantaged, and white test-takers have an inherent advantage in the testing process."

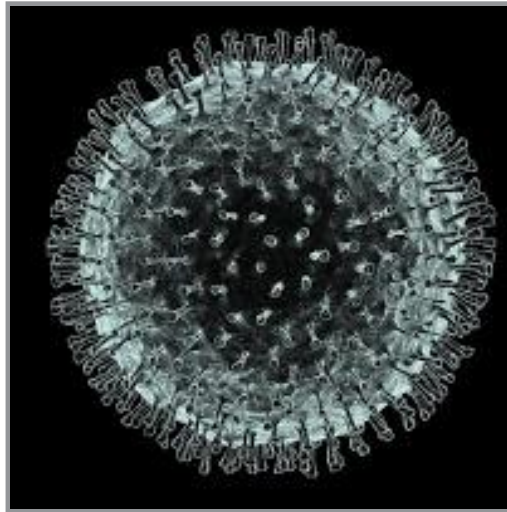
UC had already agreed to drop the Scholastic Aptitude Test and American College Testing exam as admissions requirements, after low-income, minority and disabled students sued the university, saying the standardized tests were unfair to applicants who could not afford preparation classes and tutors, or whose first language was not English. But the move would not take effect until after 2022 — and in the meantime students were given the option of submitting their test scores. Seligman said allowing some applicants to submit test scores tips the scales against disabled students.

UC is appealing because "The logical consequence of the court's decision is that the University may not consider any indicator that is not equally available to all applicants," the university said in a statement Friday...

Full story at <https://www.sfchronicle.com/bayarea/article/UC-appeals-judge-s-prohibition-on-SAT-ACT-15561589.php>

Are we getting ready to hunker down in winter?

Monday, September 14, 2020



UCLA planned originally for much more of a "reopening" in fall than actually is going to occur. As blog readers will know, CSU is staying online through the winter *semester*, i.e., for the full academic year.

So what will happen in winter quarter at UCLA? Unless someone comes up with a magic serum - and one which is capable of being distributed quickly to the general population - a good guess is that UCLA will continue its current situation - more or less - into the winter. And then we'll see about spring quarter.

See below:

From NBC News: *As the United States heads into flu season, Americans can't let up in the fight against the ongoing coronavirus pandemic, Dr. Anthony Fauci said Thursday. Although the number of new daily cases of coronavirus in the U.S. has slowly been declining over the last two weeks, the country is still closing in on 200,000 deaths from COVID-19 and more than 6 million confirmed infections.*

*"We need to **hunker down** and get through this fall and winter, because it's not going to be easy," Fauci said during a panel of doctors from Harvard Medical School.*

Fauci, director of the National Institute of Allergies and Infectious Diseases, also spoke about the COVID-19 vaccine trials and the possibility of post-Labor Day surges, noting that as one region in the U.S. gets it under control, another hot spot emerges — and that spikes inevitably appear whenever states lift social distancing restrictions. "It's really quite frankly depressing to see that because you know what's ahead," he said.

Fauci, one of the world's leading AIDS researchers since the 1980s, warned about the dangers of underestimating the virus. He compared the pandemic to the early days of HIV when the epidemic started with a few gay men to decades later with tens of millions of deaths and more than 70 million people who have been infected. "We've been through this before," he said. "Don't ever, ever underestimate the potential of the pandemic. And

don't try and look at the rosy side of things."

Fauci's sobering comments about the need for doctors and scientists to approach COVID-19 with "humility" came a day after President Donald Trump was heard in an audio clip acknowledging in February that he had minimized the seriousness of the pandemic. "I still like playing it down because I don't want to create a panic," Trump said a month later in a call with the journalist Bob Woodward, according to the clip on The Washington Post's website. Trump has been criticized for his response to the virus.

Fauci didn't mention the president, but did reflect on lessons learned. "We've really got to realize that from Day One, you don't know it all," he said. "And you've got to be flexible enough to change your recommendations, your guidelines, your policies, depending upon the information."

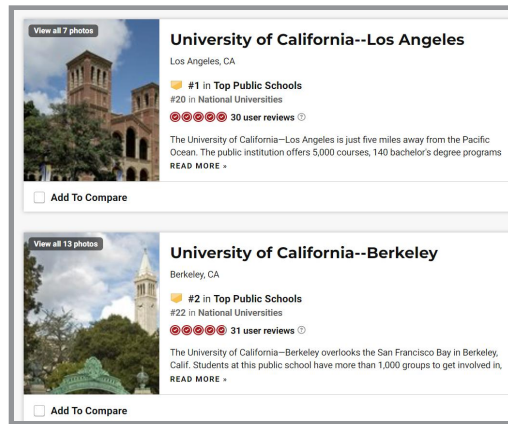
Fauci said the vaccine trials are "progressing very well" and repeated his cautious optimism for a possible vaccine by the end of the year. He didn't comment on the University of Oxford's vaccine trial, which was paused this week after a participant in the U.K. developed a spinal cord issue.' When asked about the likelihood of a second wave of cases in the U.S., Fauci responded, "I don't talk about second surges because we're still in the first surge."

While there are fears that influenza season, which begins in October, could overwhelm the nation's health care system, there is some optimism about the flu in Australia so far. Australia has experienced the "lightest influenza season in memory" due to social distancing measures that have been put in place for COVID-19, Fauci said. But it's unclear whether the U.S. will have similar luck. "I don't know what's going to happen, and I'm not predicting," Fauci said...

Full story at <https://www.nbcnews.com/health/health-news/fauci-says-u-s-needs-hunker-down-fall-winter-n1239798>

Lesson for the Regents?

Tuesday, September 15, 2020



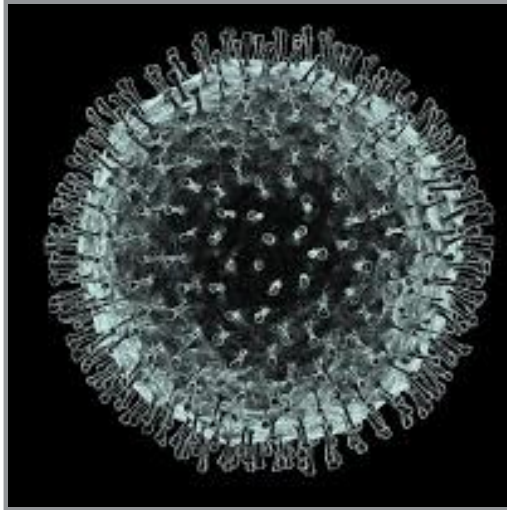
Blog readers will know that yours truly is not enamored by rankings and ratings of the recent US News type (as above). But since today the Regents begin their September meeting, some things do come to mind. One is the old adage, "If it ain't broke, don't fix it." Perhaps in the UC case, the saying could be adapted just to say, "be careful how you tinker." More significantly, since the faculty is the heart of the enterprise, you might want to pay attention to what their representatives say.

We again provide a reminder to the Regents from their recent record of ignoring what the faculty suggests:

or direct to <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9bbsF9WaPx8>

Are we getting ready to hunker down in winter? - Part 2

Tuesday, September 15, 2020



We noted yesterday that CSU was planning for online delivery in spring 2021 and UCLA administration needed to take note.* Now there is additional news from the LA Times:

The Los Angeles Community College District, the largest in the nation, will remain online-only for the rest of the academic year amid the region's ongoing coronavirus public health crisis, the system's chancellor has announced. There will be a few exceptions for classes that support the "essential infrastructure workforce," such as those training respiratory therapists, certified nurse assistants and electricians, among others.

"We remain in a declared public health emergency at the national, state and local level, and, given the current health orders, safety protocols and restrictions, our best health experts agree that we are still far from full recovery without a vaccine or responsive therapeutics," Chancellor Francisco Rodriguez said in a letter to faculty and staff Friday night...

Full story at <https://www.latimes.com/california/story/2020-09-15/los-angeles-community-colleges-to-remain-online-winter-spring-2021>

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* <http://uclafacultyassociation.blogspot.com/2020/09/are-we-getting-ready-to-hunker-down-in.html>

Reinstated

Wednesday, September 16, 2020



The suspension - not firing as some reports suggested - of a lecturer at UCLA for an email exchange with a student in the spring quarter related to grading and the George Floyd case received substantial attention. Inside Higher Ed reports now that the lecturer was reinstated despite a petition by students to fire him.* (See below.) There had been a letter to UCLA's general counsel from the Foundation for Individual Rights about the case which hinted a lawsuit might be filed.** In addition, the case became part of the larger contentious political atmosphere.

Professor Who Questioned Student's Request Reinstated

By Colleen Flaherty, 9-16-20

*The University of California, Los Angeles, reinstated a lecturer in accounting it suspended this summer over his email to a student seeking a low-stakes final exam for the class, especially Black students, in light of the protests for racial justice. The lecturer, Gordon Klein,*** responded to the student via email, "Do you know the names of the classmates that are Black? How can I identify them since we've been having online classes only?" Are there any students who "may be of mixed parentage, such as half Black-half Asian?" Klein continued. "What do you suggest I do with respect to them? A full concession or just half?" At the time, UCLA's Anderson School of Management said it was looking into Klein's "offensive" comments, and that "respect and equality for all are core principles at UCLA Anderson."*****

On Tuesday, a spokesperson for Anderson said that Klein returned to work in late June and "continues with his regular duties. Due to confidentiality and privacy laws and concerns, we are unable to comment further on this matter at this time." The university has "general procedures and principles that uphold freedom of expression and freedom of intellectual inquiry, while also being committed to creating a learning, working and living environment that is free from discrimination, harassment, or retaliation," it also said.

Katlyn Patton, program officer at the Foundation for Individual Rights in Education, which advocated for Klein during his mandatory leave, said in a statement, "We're happy to confirm that Gordon Klein is teaching once again, and hope that in the future UCLA will consider its constitutional obligations before throwing educators out of the classroom." UCLA investigated Klein's "'tone' in an attempt to quell public backlash," Patton said. "But regardless of how many people demand his firing, UCLA cannot justify using that anger

to erode Gordon's rights."

Source: <https://www.insidehighered.com/quicktakes/2020/09/16/professor-who-questioned-students-request-reinstated>

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* <https://www.change.org/p/ucla-fire-ucla-professor-gordon-klein>

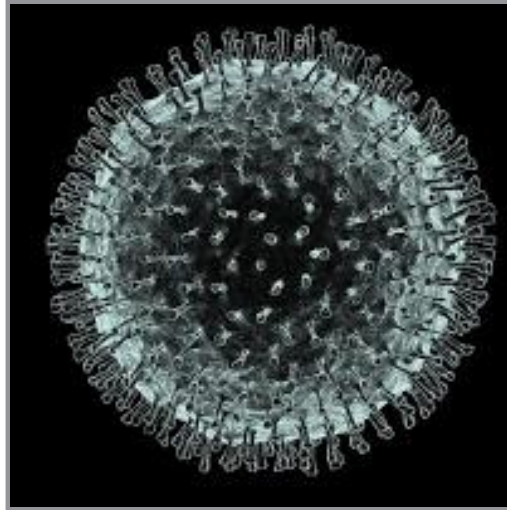
** <https://www.thefire.org/fire-letter-to-the-university-of-california-los-angeles-june-10-2020/>

*** <https://www.anderson.ucla.edu/faculty-and-research/accounting/faculty/klein>

****A letter from the dean to the community at Anderson was general and did not specifically characterize the remarks in the email as "offensive." The word "troubling" was used.

Cellphone Coronavirus Notification at UC-San Diego

Wednesday, September 16, 2020



From the [San Diego Union-Tribune](#): *Students and staff members at the University of California San Diego will soon be able to get cellphone notifications telling them whether they've come in contact with someone who has COVID-19.*

Health officials at the university have worked for months to persuade the state to sign off on a pilot program that harnesses a cellphone's Bluetooth capabilities to quickly identify people who have come in contact with the novel coronavirus. On Friday, the state gave UC San Diego and University of California San Francisco the go-ahead to test the technology...

UC San Diego officials are still working out the details of the program, but the hope is to have it ready to go by the time school starts on Sept. 28. The University estimates that it will enroll 38,000 students for the fall quarter, and while most students will be taking their classes online, about 11,000 graduate and undergraduate students are planning to live on campus...

Full story at <https://www.sandiegouniontribune.com/news/health/story/2020-09-14/uc-san-diego-given-green-light-to-launch-cellphone-based-covid-19-exposure-notification-system>

Listen to the Tuesday 9-15-20 Meeting of the Regents

Wednesday, September 16, 2020



At the Tuesday session of the Regents, two committees - Investments and Special Needs - had their meetings. The Investments Committee meeting started with public comments. Topics covered included abortion, contracting out and layoffs at UC, police, coronavirus testing, prison investments, and animal rights. There were comments on both sides (pro and con) concerning the Hawaiian telescope. The Investments Committee primarily discussed returns on the various portfolios. Although no one specifically commented on it, the pension portfolio seemed to underperform the self-selected benchmarks. A proposed change in portfolio guidelines appeared generally to tilt to somewhat more risk (more equity, less secure fixed investments). The Committee (and the Regents as trustees) would benefit from an institutionalized devil's advocate function. Otherwise, the meetings typically involve elaborate presentations followed by comments that range from praise to general observations.

The Basic Needs Committee has a draft report and took comments from participants as to changes and additions. There were issues about the interface between county offices that handle what used to be called "food stamps" and other services and campus offices.

You can hear the discussion by going direct to:

<https://archive.org/details/investments-committee-special-committee-on-basic-needs>

or at player below:

Listen to the Wednesday (9-16-20) Morning Session of the Regents

Thursday, September 17, 2020



The Wednesday morning (9-16-2020) meeting of the Regents began with public comments. Comments covered police, hospital access, layoffs, the theater district UC-San Diego project (pro and con), the Hawaiian telescope (pro and con), anti-vax, contracting out, international students, SAT-ACT, undocumented students, and nurse PPE.

After the public comments, the full board hear comments from Chair John Pérez, President Michael Drake, and Faculty Representative Mary Gauvain. The remarks, coming at the beginning of the new academic year, were largely ceremonial. Dr. Carrie Byington gave a report on the coronavirus situation. She noted that while in the past UC has always followed CDC guidelines, of late she believed the guidelines were in some cases too loose. In particular, UC disagrees with the CDC notion of only testing students who had coronavirus symptoms.

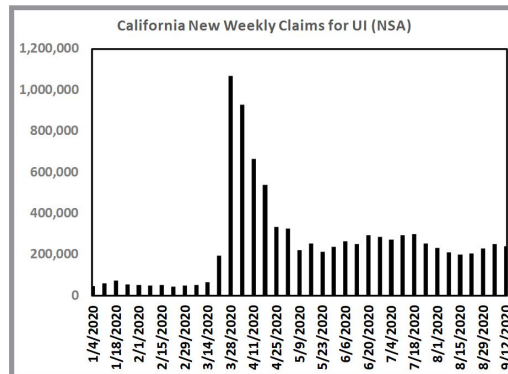
The National Labs Committee then met and heard a presentation about a fellowship program at Lawrence Livermore. Finally, a brief open meeting of Compliance and Audit made some changes to the Internal Audit function at UC. The proposal was amended to indicate tighter linkage to the Regents.

You can hear the morning session at the link below:

Direct to <https://archive.org/details/board-and-committee-meetings-morning-9-16-20>

New Weekly Unemployment Claims

Thursday, September 17, 2020



At both the state and national levels, new weekly claims for unemployment insurance dropped in the week ending Sept. 12. It might be noted that the data we have been presenting refers to the "regular" unemployment insurance program. Congress created a separate program for "gig" workers, i.e., independent contractors who normally are not eligible for unemployment insurance. Such workers' payroll data is not reported to state agencies because they are not on payrolls. As a result, it is difficult to determine whether those claimants are actually eligible for the new program and what amount they are eligible to receive.

Perhaps, not surprisingly, there is evidence of significant fraud in the special gig program, especially in California which has a substantially disproportionate share of gig claims. See:

<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/09/16/business/economy/unemployment-claims-numbers.html>

and <https://www.capolicylab.org/news/new-analysis-california-unemployment-claims-surged-in-august-driven-in-part-by-questionable-increase-in-pua-claims/>; <https://www.capolicylab.org/publications/september-15th-analysis-of-unemployment-insurance-claims-in-california-during-the-covid-19-pandemic/>

In any event, the latest weekly claims release (as always) is at <https://www.dol.gov/ui/data.pdf>.

Permission to Practice

Thursday, September 17, 2020



USC, UCLA work together to get clarity on lifting of restrictions in L.A. County

Jon Wilner | 9-16-20 | [Orange County Register](#)

An unprecedented situation called for an unusual maneuver. The athletic directors at USC and UCLA joined forces and held a joint Zoom call with Los Angeles County health officials Wednesday evening to clear a path for the football teams to begin practicing, according to sources familiar with the discussions. And it worked.

"It was encouraging," one source said.

So encouraging that the teams are preparing to conduct full-squad practices once Pac-12 presidents approve that step, a move that could come as soon as Friday. The development — in which USC's Mike Bohn and UCLA's Martin Jarmond banded together to gain clarity from health authorities — is the latest significant development in the Pac-12's collective push to return to play.

Earlier Wednesday, California Governor Gavin Newsom lifted the state health restrictions that had prevented the four California schools from conducting traditional practices. For instance: cohorts of no more than 12 players. Newsom's move allows the schools to deal directly with local authorities on safety protocols...

Sources said the L.A. County officials indicated they would not stand in the way of the Bruins and Trojans practicing in 11-on-11 fashion with full contact...

The development in Los Angeles County could help facilitate the lifting of restrictions in the Bay Area, given that COVID-19 is more prevalent in Southern California. The Pac-12 presidents will meet Friday and could approve a return-to-play process, either by formal vote or general consensus. Central to that discussion will be whether the teams must wait for the rapid-response antigen tests expected at the end of the month.

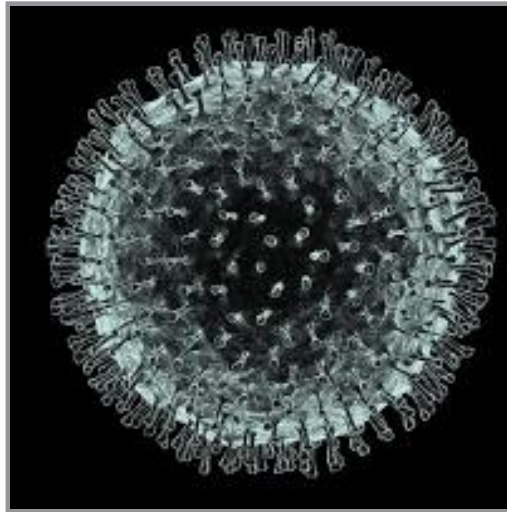
If the teams begin practicing late this month, the season could begin on Halloween. In addition, USC and UCLA have received approval for indoor athletic activity, sources said, a key step in the return of basketball. The NCAA announced a Nov. 25 start for the basketball regular season, meaning Pac-12 teams must be on the court in late October for practice. The clearance provided by L.A. County earlier this week should allow the

Bruins and Trojans to hit that target.

Full article at <https://www.ocregister.com/2020/09/16/usc-ucla-ban-together-to-get-clarity-on-lifting-of-restrictions-in-l-a-county-2/>

Another Year?

Thursday, September 17, 2020



We noted that the Tuesday Regents meeting included a presentation on the coronavirus crisis. CalMatters draws some conclusions:

Zoom classes will need to stick around for at least another year at the University of California, according to the system's top health official. Dr. Carrie L. Byington, executive vice president of the sprawling UC Health system, said Wednesday that COVID-19's impact on public health will require the university to continue its modifications, which include almost all classes done virtually and extremely reduced on-campus housing capacity, through September of 2021, improving gradually each month through July of 2022.

Byington's remarks came at the UC Board of Regents meeting during a virtual meeting. After a regent asked if it's the case that January won't look much different than the situation on campuses today and that the picture won't change much by September, Byington said "that is an accurate summary of my feelings."

"I do think that we will not be back to normal by January, and that we need to plan now for what the winter quarter or winter semester looks like," she said. Byington also pointed out that the positivity rate for coronavirus cases among young people has risen significantly since the start of the pandemic. It's the strongest indication that the UC could join the California State University in remaining largely online for the remainder of the academic year. Last week Cal State Chancellor Timothy P. White said the system of more than 480,000 students would stay its mostly virtual course. "This decision is the only responsible one available to us at this time," he wrote in a public letter.

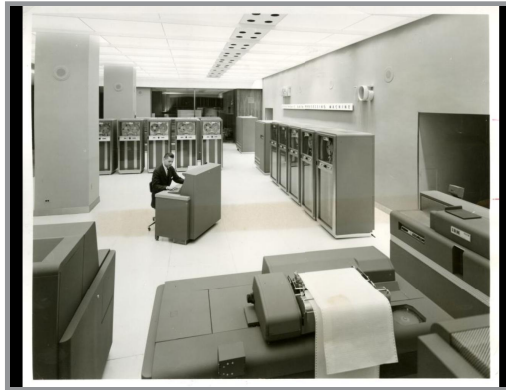
California has taken a far more conservative approach to re-opening than other states. "COVID-19 will be with us for a long time and we need to adapt," said Gavin Newsom in an Aug. 28 press briefing. Byington echoed those sentiments, channeling historical precedent. "This is not something that will go away quickly," she said. "The pandemic of 1918, which is the one that we would compare this to most easily, (it) was about four years before things began to really change."

The slow timeline to returning to normalcy makes sense. A widely distributed vaccine won't be available until the middle of next year at the soonest, said the director of the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention at a Congressional hearing Wednesday...

Full story at <https://calmatters.org/education/2020/09/uc-coronavirus-precautions-2021/>
==== * <http://uclafacultyassociation.blogspot.com/2020/09/listen-to-tuesday-9-15-20-meeting-of.html>

UCLA History: Computer

Friday, September 18, 2020



UCLA's mainframe computer in the 1960s. Note the tape drives and the large printer in the foreground.

It would be nice to have a detailed NET accounting

Friday, September 18, 2020



Below is an excerpt from an article in the Bruin on revenue loss due to the coronavirus crisis by UC. Look, we all know that UC is losing money due to the situation. But some of it has been recovered from the federal government. Other federal money may yet come. The problem is that UC tends to cite gross losses without the offsetting federal receipts. What is relevant is the NET loss after federal reimbursement. How about a simple table by fairly detailed category showing the gross loss, federal offsetting receipts received, federal requests pending, and reasonable potential future federal reimbursements? By "fairly detailed," we mean more detailed than the health vs. "campus" division in the Bruin article. Example for the "campus": Tuition (international, other out-of-state, in-state), dorm rent, food service, etc.).

The University of California is pursuing federal funding to alleviate its nearly \$2 billion revenue loss caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The UC system has incurred high costs since the beginning of the pandemic and hopes to obtain additional funding if the federal government passes new stimulus packages, said UC spokesperson Stett Holbrook in an emailed statement.

The Health and Economic Recovery Omnibus Emergency Solutions Act, which is currently stalled in the United States Senate, could give states a total of \$27 billion to help public universities offset costs incurred from the pandemic. These funds would be allocated to institutions based on each institution's proportion of Pell Grant recipients and total student enrollment, according to the HEROES Act. The amount of funding the UC could get from the HEROES act is not yet determined.

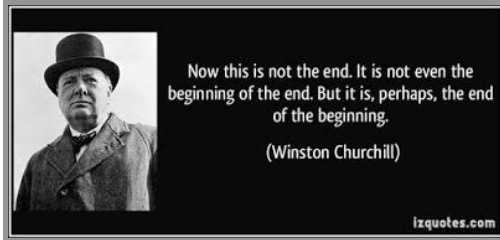
The UC already received \$761.1 million from the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act as of July, Holbrook said. The act allocated \$137.4 million to the campuses, \$130 million toward student financial aid and \$493.7 million toward UC Health.

From the beginning of the pandemic in March through July 31, the UC lost \$1.9 billion in expenditures and revenue, Holbrook said. Nearly \$900 million of losses came from the UC campuses and \$1 billion came from the UC Academic Health Centers, Holbrook said...

Full article at <https://dailybruin.com/2020/09/17/uc-system-experiences-nearly-2b-loss-as-a-result-of-pandemic-seeks-federal-aid>

Another End of the Beginning Report on the California Labor Market ...

Friday, September 18, 2020



As officially measured, the California unemployment fell to 11.4% in August. However, we were still very high by historical standards. The latest news release from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics is at: <https://www.bls.gov/news.release/laus.nr0.htm>.

No Training

Friday, September 18, 2020



UC national labs suspend diversity training after Trump administration order

San Francisco Chronicle, Nanette Asimov, 9-17-20

The Lawrence Berkeley National Lab, managed by the University of California but federally funded, has suspended its employees' diversity training program by order of the Trump administration, which recently called such programs "divisive, anti-American propaganda," The Chronicle has learned.

With more than 1,400 scientists and engineers, and thousands more visiting scholars and students from around the world, the lab that overlooks San Francisco Bay is funded largely by the U.S. Department of Energy and conducts unclassified research across several scientific disciplines. It is known as Berkeley Lab.

"The Department of Energy has asked all the national labs, which are funded by taxpayer dollars, to suspend their diversity, equity, and inclusion training programs," lab Director Mike Witherell told employees Friday in a memo acquired by The Chronicle. "Berkeley Lab is cooperating with this request and is pausing DEI-related training until we can, working with DOE, assess our offerings in light of the current concerns."

Lawrence Livermore National Lab, a national security research institute in Livermore funded mainly by the Department of Energy and run in part by UC, has also suspended much of its diversity training, The Chronicle has learned.

Both laboratories declined to comment. They referred The Chronicle to the Department of Energy, which did not respond to several requests for comment and for the department's directive.

The federal crackdown comes as President Trump's re-election campaign increasingly focuses on disparaging racial justice movements such as Black Lives Matter, playing to white fears and grievances, and stoking the culture wars. Among the most recent examples, this summer the president called Black Lives Matter a "symbol of hate," and, in rolling back anti-segregation provisions of the Fair Housing Act, he assured suburbanites that "crime will go down."

A widely circulated memo from the U.S. Office of Management and Budget, issued Sept. 4 to the heads of federal agencies and executive departments, including the Department of Energy, makes clear that the president's intent is to eliminate all anti-racism instruction

funded by federal dollars, and to cancel any contracts or other federal business in which multicultural acceptance plays a part.

“It has come to the President’s attention that Executive Branch agencies have spent millions of taxpayer dollars to date ‘training’ government workers to believe divisive, anti-American propaganda,” wrote Russell Vought, director of the Office of Management and Budget.

Citing unidentified news reports, Vought asserted in the memo that the purpose of training employees on matters of diversity is to indoctrinate them with the idea that “virtually all White people contribute to racism” and that it is racist to believe that “America is the land of opportunity.”

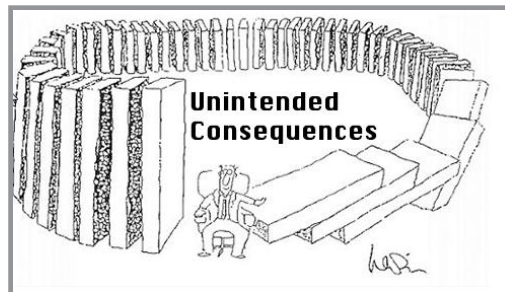
“The President has directed me to ensure that Federal agencies cease and desist from using taxpayer dollars to fund these divisive, un-American propaganda training sessions,” Vought wrote, adding that additional guidance is forthcoming for agencies and departments to cancel any federal contracts that touch on such things, and to look for legal rationales supporting such actions.

The federal order drew criticism from at least one faculty member, who called it “unethical and harmful,” and unease from UC Regent Eloy Ortiz Oakley, who serves on the regents’ national laboratories committee...

Full article at <https://www.sfchronicle.com/education/article/UC-s-national-labs-suspend-diversity-training-15575382.php>

Did the Regents Undermine Prop 16?

Friday, September 18, 2020



The Mercury News carries an article - see below - about concerns of Asian-American parents concerning Prop 16 (which would end the ban on affirmative action under Prop 209). At the same time, a PPIC poll suggests its chances of enactment are poor.*

The Regents took two actions - which can be seen as interrelated - recently. One was to endorse Prop 16. They could alternatively have stayed silent. The other action was to drop use of the SAT and ACT. The latter decision was contrary to a recommendation in a faculty report the Regents themselves had commissioned. They could have simply accepted the faculty recommendation or just postponed the issue.

Former Governor Brown used to say that not every problem needs a law. Similarly, not every controversial issue or ballot proposition needs an opinion from the Regents. Perhaps there are cases where less is more, and this may have been one of them. Just a thought...

Here is the Mercury News piece: (excerpt)

Six years ago, when California lawmakers mounted a campaign to repeal the state's ban on affirmative action in college admissions, Chinese American opponents of the proposal flooded lawmakers with calls, emails and petitions. Their campaign, mobilized on the group messaging app WeChat and in Chinese-language media, was successful, and the constitutional amendment died in the Legislature.

This year, a better-organized effort to repeal the ban has put Proposition 16 on California's November ballot. It's an even broader initiative that would reverse the measure approved by voters in 1996 banning any consideration of race and gender in public college admissions, as well as other government functions such as hiring and contracting. The initiative's supporters have dwarfed their opponents in fundraising and endorsements, but a poll released this week found Proposition 16 is trailing badly among voters.

One potential factor: Proponents of affirmative action are once again facing vocal resistance from some Asian American families — in particular, from more conservative recent Chinese American immigrants — who fear it will mean fewer spots for their children at top University of California schools.

"The opposition is fixated on higher education," said Karthick Ramakrishnan, a UC Riverside professor who studies Asian American political attitudes.

Members of the No on 16 campaign, which has held car parades and rallies in several East Bay and Peninsula suburbs and picketed outside the Los Gatos headquarters of Netflix after founder Reed Hastings' wife donated \$1 million to the Yes side, downplayed the importance of college admissions in interviews.

"Everyone knows that in the Asian community, that their kids have to be very, very good to get into a good college — that's an open secret," said Frank Xu, a San Diego IT consultant and member of the No campaign who came to the United States from China in 2005. "Proposition 16 will make it worse, but that's not the biggest concern."

Instead, Saga Conroy, another member of the opposition who immigrated to the United States from China in 2009, said she and other first-generation immigrants oppose affirmative action because it offends their more traditional notions of America as a land of equal opportunity, where anyone can make it if they work hard. The proposition's supporters say that has never been the American reality and that systemic racism means that a level playing field is a myth. Conroy and others in the No campaign, which calls itself Californians for Equal Rights, disagree.

"California is so diverse, and we (treat) everyone equally," she said. For immigrants, "Prop 16 doesn't fit into their American journey."

Still, Sunny Shao, a doctoral candidate who works with Ramakrishnan and tracks political activity on WeChat, said concerns about college admissions are "the main mobilizer" against Proposition 16 on the wildly popular platform. And nationwide, Asian Americans have similarly been on the front lines of fights against affirmative action programs at Ivy League colleges and top New York City high schools.

At 20.5 percent, Asian American students had the highest admission rates at UC Berkeley last year, compared to 17.9 percent of White students, 14.4 percent of Latinx students and 11.6 percent of Black students. A similar pattern held at UCLA.

Black and Latinx admission rates to Berkeley and UCLA, the system's most selective campuses, plummeted after California's ban on affirmative action 22 years ago.

In the zero-sum world of college admissions — where an acceptance letter for one student means rejection for another — affirmative action opponents worry that increasing the number of Black and Latinx students will by definition mean fewer White and Asian students will make it in...

Full article at <https://www.mercurynews.com/2020/09/17/proposition-16-why-some-asian-americans-are-on-the-front-lines-of-the-campaign-against-affirmative-action/>

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* <https://www.ppic.org/wp-content/uploads/ppic-statewide-survey-californians-and-their-government-september-2020.pdf> (p. 10)

"Proposition 16 is called the 'Allows Diversity as a Factor in Public Employment, Education, and Contracting Decisions. Legislative Constitutional Amendment.' If the election were held today, would you vote yes or no on Proposition 16?"

Likely voters only	Yes	No	Don't know	
All likely voters	31%	47%	22%	
Party	Democrats	46	27	26
	Republicans	9	72	20
	Independents	26	58	16
Region	Central Valley	25	53	21
	Inland Empire	20	59	21
	Los Angeles	37	41	22
	Orange/San Diego	28	51	22
	San Francisco Bay Area	40	41	19
Gender	Men	31	54	15
	Women	32	41	28

Note: There used to be folk wisdom among politicians in California that a proposition on a controversial subject was in trouble unless it got something like 60% support BEFORE the campaign began. Starting with 47% no and 31% yes is not promising to say the least. Of course, we won't know until Election Day.

Another element to consider from a different PPIC publication is the profile of likely voters in the state (as of September 2020):

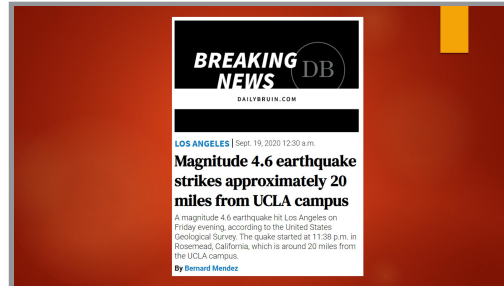
California's likely voters

		Registered voters		Not registered
		Likely voters	Infrequent voters	
Party registration	Democratic	47%	36%	—
	Republican	26	19	—
	Independent	22	40	—
	Other	4	4	—
Major party leanings among independents and those not registered	Democratic Party	46	45	55%
	Republican Party	37	26	21
	Neither/Don't know	17	29	24
Political ideology	Liberal	37	30	30
	Moderate	30	38	38
	Conservative	33	32	31
Race/Ethnicity	African American	6	8	3
	Asian American	14	18	15
	Latino	21	31	58
	White	55	40	22
	Other/Multiracial	4	3	2

Source: https://www.ppic.org/wp-content/uploads/JTF_LikelyVotersJTF.pdf

A UCLA-Centric View of Last Night's Seismic Event

Saturday, September 19, 2020



The Bruin takes a UCLA-Centric view of last night's earthquake. But its article does provide a reminder about at-risk campus buildings through a link to an earlier article that appeared just one year ago:

The UCLA Luskin School of Public Affairs, Powell Library and Charles E. Young Research Library are three of 15 buildings that were found to pose serious risk to life according to a seismic assessment initiative released by UCLA on Thursday.

There are three UCLA buildings that would pose a greater risk to life in the case of a strong earthquake, denoted as a severe risk – The Clark Library Gate House, the Kneller House and the UCLA Nimoy Theater – which are located off campus and are unoccupied, said Vice Chancellor and Chief Financial Officer Gregg Goldman in an email statement.

UCLA's study stems from updates to the UC Seismic Safety Policy made by the University of California in 2017 to assess the seismic risk of buildings on all 10 UC campuses and includes 97 buildings UCLA has reviewed in phase one and two of a three phase review process. Phase three for all UC building assessments is set to be completed no later than June 30, 2020...

Full story from the earlier article at <https://dailybruin.com/2019/09/01/seismic-assessment-lists-some-ucla-buildings-as-posing-serious-risk-to-life>

Listen to the Regents Full Board meeting of Sept. 17, 2020

Sunday, September 20, 2020



In our continued coverage of last week's Regents meeting, we will jump over the Wednesday afternoon session and go to the full board meeting on Thursday. (We'll get back to Wednesday afternoon when yours truly has a chance to listed to those sessions.)

The Thursday full board meeting began with public comments. Topics included disabled students, mental health, pay cuts, the Hawaiian telescope, police, UC pension investments in a Laguna hotel which has a labor dispute, layoffs, preserving historic murals at UC-San Francisco, outsourcing, and access to data related to Prop 209.

There were various reports after the public comments. The graduate student representative noted problems with the UCPath payroll system in getting proper pay to grad student assistants. Dr. Carrie Byington reported on the strategic plan for UC Health, with much discussion of diversity, retention, and the effects of the coronavirus. General issues of "accountability" were raised. A review of how UC reacted in the aftermath of the Great Recession of 2008. There was discussion of Prop 209 (anti-affirmative action) and its possible repeal via Prop 16 in November. Note was taken of the adverse poll results on repeal that discussed in Friday's post on this blog.* The Regents enacted an anti-quota resolution, apparently to persuade voters that Prop 16 would not produce strict numeral quotas on admissions. Finally, there was approval of formation of an LLC (limited liability corporation) to capture revenue from university inventions at Berkeley and UCLA.

You can hear the recording of the meeting at the link below. Note that at the moment we cannot embed a player due to changes in the Blogger system. (The "legacy" system is no longer available on Blogger which permitted the embedding.) However, the link will take you to the recording:

<https://archive.org/details/board-9-17-2020>

(I have emailed Archive.org about the embedding issue.)

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* <http://uclafacultyassociation.blogspot.com/2020/09/did-regents-undermine-prop-16.html>

Another Tale of UCPath Issues

Monday, September 21, 2020



From the Davis Enterprise: *The University Council-American Federation of Teachers (UC-AFT), the union representing lecturers and librarians at the University of California, has filed an unfair labor practice charge against the university, UC-AFT Executive Director Bill Quirk announced Friday in a press release.*

According to the union, UC failed to make contributions to employees' retirement accounts over multiple years. When correcting for the failure, the university did not account for years of market gains, potentially depriving employees of hundreds of thousands of dollars. "UC-AFT asserts that, after discovering the error, the UC unlawfully failed to bargain with the union over how to correct it," Quirk said.

"Correcting this error is a process that requires close attention to each individual's DCP account and investments," said UC-AFT Vice-President for Organizing Daniel Schooli, in public comment to the UC Retirement System Advisory Board in June. "The lack of transparency around how this error is being corrected is a major concern for our union and our members."

More than 2,000 employees did not receive their retirement account contributions, according to the press release. The combined amount the university failed to pay in retirement benefits totals roughly \$650,000...

"The University administration claims it failed to make the contributions because of a coding mistake in its centralized payroll system, UCPath," Quirk said in the press release. UCOP did not immediately respond to a request for comment...

Full story at <https://www.davisenterprise.com/local-news/lecturers-union-files-unfair-labor-practice-charge-against-uc/>

We might note that the Regents discussed "accountability" in last weeks meetings. It's not clear that we have ever had accountability in the case of UCPath's cost inflation and implementation problems.

Listen to the Regents' Afternoon Sessions of Sept. 16, 2020

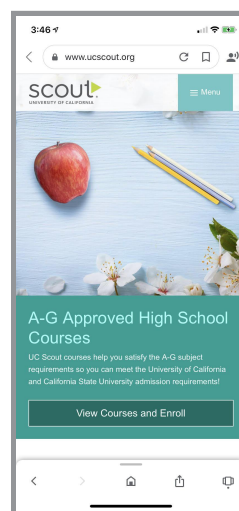
Monday, September 21, 2020



We'll now go back to the Regents meeting of last Wednesday afternoon (Sept. 16) which featured meetings of the Governance Committee, Academic and Students Affairs, and Finance and Capital Strategies.

The Governance Committee was a routine approval of various items heard in closed session, notably pay for the chief investment officer. In Academic and Student Affairs, there was initial discussion of racial issues and then the meeting largely turned to discussion of the impact of the coronavirus crisis on student learning.

There was a cautionary note by one regent about the Learning Management Systems (LMS) offered by various commercial providers. A suggestion was made that if UC, CSU, and the community colleges bargained in coordination with such a provider, more leverage could be had. (Exactly how much value such systems add was not evaluated.)



Finally, there was related discussion of the A-G course requirements for entrance into UC in high school. UC has a program, which includes an online component, called UC

Scout which is supposed to supplement or aid offerings by school districts.

In Finance and Capital Strategies, some projects were given routine approval. However, a dorm project at UC-San Diego - the theater district project - ran into trouble, with Regents' questions somewhat reminiscent of what went on when UCLA proposed its Grand Hotel. Apparently, the project is located near the La Jolla Playhouse. There were questions about financing including about the general financial condition of the campus. Documents given to the Regents included confusing exhibits with tables which didn't seem to add up. Concerns were raised about the potential litigation from neighborhood groups that were opposed.

Committee chair Makarechian said he could not vote for the project, given current documentation. He suggested that clearer documentation be provided at the next meeting of the Regents in November. UC-SD's chancellor said that if the approval was delayed by two months, the project would be set back a year. That assertion was debated. Finally, it was agreed that the campus and UCOP should come back to the next day's meeting with a figure of what it would cost to keep the project intact until November and it would be approved.

Another UC-SD ran into trouble as well. It involved the creation of a shell corporation that would allow a UC-SD extension building to benefit from a federal tax credit. Several Regents found the device to be an unseemly gimmick and abstained. However, the endorsement by the committee passed.

You can hear the various committee meetings at the link below:

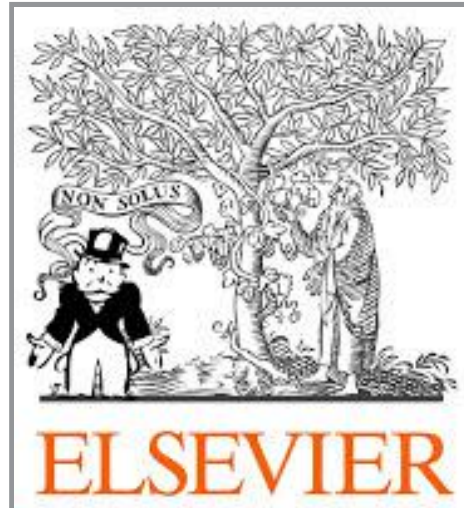
<https://archive.org/details/governance-committee-academic-and-student-affairs-committee-9-16-20>

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We again note 1) a change in the Blogger system does not allow embedding of a player, although the link above will take you to the site of the recordings, and 2) we provide audios of the meetings because the Regents preserve their recordings for only one year. There is no apparent reason why they cannot preserve them indefinitely. The one time yours truly inquired about the one-year policy he was told that the Regent do it because CSU does it. (Perhaps CSU does it because the Regents do it.)

Remember UC's Dispute With Elsevier? Fall Reminder

Tuesday, September 22, 2020



UC's libraries cancelled expensive journal contracts with Elsevier and from time-to-time has negotiated more favorable deals with other publishers. An article in The Triton, a student-run news source at UC-San Diego has more details. You can trace the Elsevier issue as it evolved on this blog using the search engine and typing in "Elsevier." The most recent entry is back in March.* According to the item below, it was hoped an Elsevier-UC deal could be reached by the end of summer.

The University of California (UC) announced a new four year contract with global research publisher Springer Nature on June 16. The contract, spanning from 2020-2023, will allow UC associated authors to publish their research at little to no cost, minimizing a major financial hurdle for researchers. The agreement will also expand access to 1000 Springer journals for UC students and faculty.

The agreement marks an important step in the UC's Open Access (OA) Initiative, which aims to reduce or eliminate the cost of publishing and accessing academic research by 2020. Traditionally, academic researchers have had to choose between paying an additional fee for their research to be OA, allowing their work to be accessed for free without restrictions, or requiring readers to pay to read their work. This Initiative creates institutional support for OA publishing within the UC system.

"UC's new transformative agreement with Springer Nature is another step in the right direction, signaling increasing global momentum and support for the open access movement," said Eric Mitchell, Audrey Geisel University Librarian. "I am proud to see [the] UC and UC San Diego providing leadership to make the scholarship of our faculty and students openly available."

The UC agreement with Springer Nature will proceed in three phases. During the 2020-21 phase, the UC will cover the additional fee typically associated with publishing OA articles. From 2021-22, UC libraries will contribute \$1000 to help cover the OA fees. The UC libraries can also cover any remaining fees as needed. Finally, from 2022-23,

Springer Nature will integrate its titles into the OA agreement, making them free to access...

Usually researchers publish through for-profit publishing institutions such as Elsevier, one of the world's largest and most expensive academic publication services. In 2019, the UC terminated their contract with Elsevier after months of negotiations. Elsevier accounted for 25% of the annual systemwide journals budget and required UC associated authors to pay their fee, along with the UC's subscription fees.

*Since January 2020, the UC and Elsevier have remained in an informal dialogue to see if a new agreement can be made. As of July 27, the UC publisher negotiations team has restarted formal dialogue and hopes that negotiations can restart by the **end of summer**.*

Full story at <https://triton.news/2020/09/the-uc-reaches-new-publishing-agreement-with-springer-nature/amp/>

Note that "end of summer" has now come and gone - it's now officially fall - and so far no new Elsevier deal has been announced.

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* <http://uclafacultyassociation.blogspot.com/2020/03/remember-uc-dispute-with-elsevier-lots.html>

State Auditor Faults UC Admissions, Especially UCLA, UC-San Diego, ...

Tuesday, September 22, 2020



The state auditor points to the phony-athlete admissions scandal, but also opaque other practices. A summary of the report is below. Exactly how the auditor's report might affect the upcoming vote to repeal Prop 209's ban on affirmative action is unclear.

SUMMARY

The University of California (university) is the most selective of the State's public postsecondary institutions. The university relies on its campuses—which are bound by policies of its Board of Regents (Regents)—to make admissions decisions. This audit reviewed the general admissions practices of three campuses: the University of California, Berkeley (UC Berkeley), the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA), and the University of California, San Diego (UC San Diego). It also examined the admission of athletes at those campuses and at the University of California, Santa Barbara. This report draws the following conclusions:

Campus Staff Took Advantage of Weaknesses in Admissions Processes to Inappropriately Admit 64 Students as Favors to Donors, Family, and Friends

We identified 64 applicants whom the four campuses admitted for academic years 2013–14 through 2018–19 based on inappropriate factors, including their families' donations to the university and their relationships to campus staff. The majority of these applicants were white and at least half had annual family incomes of \$150,000 or more. Campus staff used the campuses' weak athletics admissions processes to admit 22 of these applicants, even though they possessed little athletic talent. In addition, UC Berkeley admitted 42 applicants through its regular admissions process based on their connections to donors and staff, while concurrently denying admission to others who were more qualified. The pervasiveness of this problem at UC Berkeley demonstrates that campus leadership has failed to establish a campus culture that values commitment to an admissions process based on fairness and applicants' merits and achievements.

Campuses Lack Key Criteria and Standards to Support Their Admissions Decisions

UC Berkeley and UCLA do not have criteria for selecting applicants for admission, raising questions about why they have frequently admitted applicants whom their reviewers identified as less competitive while denying admission to applicants their reviewers more highly recommended. Additionally, UC Berkeley, UCLA, and UC San Diego lack adequate processes for identifying applicants who do not meet eligibility requirements for admission to the university.

Campuses Have Not Adequately Ensured That Reviewers and Faculty Consistently and Fairly Evaluate Applications

The campuses have not adequately trained or supervised the reviewers who rate applications. As a result, reviewers were sometimes overly harsh or overly lenient in the assessment of applicants, which made applicants' chances of admission unduly dependent on which staff members evaluated their applications. Further, although the campuses allowed academic departments to have input in admissions decisions, the campuses provided little or no oversight of the processes that academic departments use when evaluating applications for majors in their departments, creating risk of improper influence on their recommendations of applicants for admission.

The Office of the President Has Not Safeguarded the University's Admissions Process

The university's Office of the President has not reviewed the campuses' admissions processes to detect and prevent unfair or inconsistent practices. Instead, it has allowed weaknesses to persist for years. Further, the Office of the President has not monitored or encouraged high school participation in its program called Eligible in the Local Context, a critical university effort to increase campuses' admission of disadvantaged high school students. Consequently, nearly 30 percent of eligible schools—more than 600 schools—in the State do not participate, resulting in thousands of high school students missing an opportunity to obtain guaranteed admission to the university.

Summary of Recommendations

Beginning with the admissions cycle for applicants applying for academic year 2021–22, the Office of the President should require all campuses to do the following:

- Before admitting prospective student athletes, verify their athletic talents and review donation records for indicators of inappropriate activity.*
- Establish and follow predetermined criteria for how they will select the applicants they admit, including the circumstances under which they will admit an applicant whom their reviewers have determined to be less qualified than others they reject.*

Beginning with the admissions cycle for academic year 2021–22, the Office of the President should oversee UC Berkeley's admissions process for at least three admissions cycles to ensure that the campus provides a merit-based admissions process that is free of improper influence.

By March 2021, the Office of the President should require that all campuses establish proficiency standards for application reviewers and monitor those reviewers' ratings for consistency.

By April 2021, the Office of the President should begin regular audits of the campuses'

admissions processes to assess them for weaknesses, identify inappropriate admissions decisions, and recommend improvements.

At least annually, the Office of the President should assess its Eligible in the Local Context program to ensure that as many high school students as possible are able to participate.

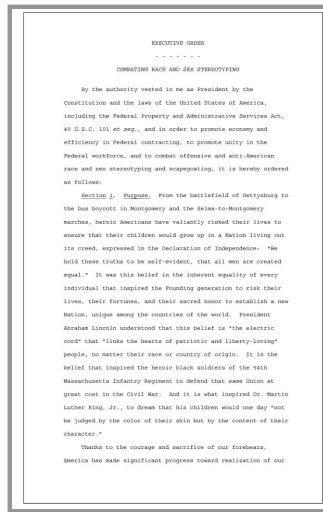
Agency Comments

The Office of the President did not state whether it would implement our recommendations. Instead, it stated that the university is committed to safeguarding the integrity of its admissions practices, and that it would take prompt action to address the issues raised in our report.

Full report at <https://www.auditor.ca.gov/pdfs/reports/2019-113.pdf>

Applicable to UC?

Tuesday, September 22, 2020



The Hill is reporting this evening that President Trump has banned "federal contractors" from "training" in critical race theory. All UC campuses, of course, are in various ways federal contractors, as are the three UC-linked Dept. of Energy labs. Exactly how the executive order might apply to universities generally is unclear, however. It appears to apply to training of employees (which would include faculty), as opposed to courses for students. And it applies to contracts entered into 60 days hence, and to the use of federal funds for such training.

The White House website does not have the text online at this moment. However, by poking around on the web, I found what purports to be the text here:

<https://christopherrufo.com/president-signs-executive-order-abolishing-critical-race-theory/> (Clicking towards the bottom of each page can advance the exhibit to the next page.)

From The Hill: *President Trump on Tuesday extended his administration's ban on training involving race- and sex-based discrimination to include federal contractors, doubling down on an issue to appeal to his base, and white voters in particular. The White House released an executive order that outlaws the teaching of "divisive concepts," such as the idea that one race or sex is superior, that the United States is fundamentally racist or sexist, that any individual should feel "discomfort, guilt, anguish" or physiological distress because of their race or sex or that an individual bears responsibility for past actions by others of the same race or sex.*

"[T]raining like that discussed above perpetuates racial stereotypes and division and can use subtle coercive pressure to ensure conformity of viewpoint," the order states. "Such ideas may be fashionable in the academy, but they have no place in programs and activities supported by Federal taxpayer dollars."

The order applies to executive departments and agencies, the U.S. military, federal contractors and federal grant recipients. The president announced the order via Twitter

roughly three weeks after his administration ordered federal agencies to cancel programs that discuss "white privilege" or "critical race theory." ...

Full article at <https://thehill.com/homenews/administration/517707-trump-extends-ban-on-racial-discrimination-training-to-federal>

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UPDATE 9-23-20: The executive order is now posted officially at:

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/executive-order-combating-race-sex-stereotyping/>

Testing at Irvine

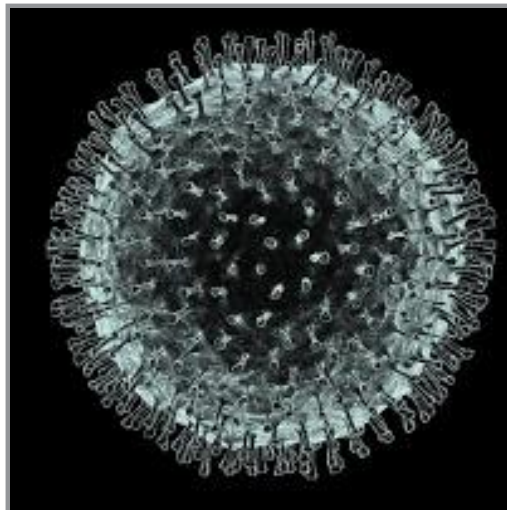
Wednesday, September 23, 2020



UC Irvine to test students living on campus weekly for COVID-19

Alicia Robinson | [Orange County Register](#) | September 22, 2020

A majority of classes at UC Irvine will be taught remotely when the fall term starts Oct. 1, but that doesn't mean the campus is empty of students. With about 3,600 students already living in campus accommodations and another 3,500 expected to move in by the end of the month, the school launched a coronavirus testing program recently to make sure every student gets a test before school starts – and university officials plan to require weekly testing after that. The goal is “to protect the health and well-being of our campus,” because for some students, it's the safest or most practical place for them to be, said Dr. Albert Chang, medical director of UCI's Student Health Center.



The school enrolls many international students, young adults from the foster care system and students whose family home may be crowded, shared with higher-risk relatives or have spotty WiFi – making campus housing a more workable option, UCI communications officer Sheri Ledbetter said. Some graduate students are there to work in research labs, which opened over the summer at about a third of their normal occupancy...

The process usually takes about six minutes, and results are available within 48 hours,

Student Health Center Executive Director J. Patrick Haines said... No one in the first round tested positive, Ledbetter said Tuesday, Sept. 22. The second phase, which just began, entails collecting specimens from arriving students before they move in, and asking students and staff to check themselves daily for symptoms... Newly arrived students get a welcome kit containing masks and other protective equipment and a “social distance blanket” that offers a visual cue to keep six feet from others. Dorm residents will part of a “pod” of six students that quarantine together for the first week.

Everyone is asked to sign the “Anteater Pledge” (named for the school’s mascot) that they will follow COVID-19 precautions, inform the school if they become infected, take part in contact tracing and the like. And while UCI officials can’t prevent students from attending parties or group activities, “if there’s a really egregious violation, the conduct process will kick in,” Ledbetter said... The university is expecting and preparing for outbreaks. With campus housing at less than half its capacity – about 7,200 students are expected in residences that can hold 16,000 – there’s room to isolate sick people if needed...

Full story at <https://www.ocregister.com/2020/09/22/uc-irvine-to-test-students-living-on-campus-weekly-for-covid-19/>

Training On Again

Wednesday, September 23, 2020



We noted in an earlier post that diversity training had been suspended at the UC-linked Dept. of Energy labs.* It appears that the training is back. Whether the latest executive order might have an effect is unknown.**

From the San Francisco Chronicle: *One of the two federally funded Bay Area labs that scrapped their diversity program because of a new Trump administration directive said it will reinstate the initiative, according to a memo reviewed by The Chronicle. The resurrection of the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory's diversity, equity and inclusion program comes after lab Director Mike Witherell told employees that the program would be suspended on orders from the White House, which recently called such initiatives "un-American propaganda training sessions."*

The Berkeley lab is managed by the University of California, but funded largely by taxpayer dollars through the Department of Energy. More than 1,400 scientists and engineers work at the lab, which conducts unclassified research across several disciplines. In another memo over the weekend, Witherell said a review of the lab's diversity initiatives, combined with "clarified guidance" from the DOE, found that trainings offered at the Berkeley lab "are not of concern."...

Another lab run partly by UC but funded by the DOE, The Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, also suspended parts of its diversity training, The Chronicle reported last week. Lynda Seaver, a spokeswoman for the Livermore lab, said the training seminars that were postponed pending review by the DOE are expected to be rescheduled "in the near future."

Full story at <https://www.sfchronicle.com/bayarea/article/Lawrence-Berkeley-lab-reverses-decision-to-scrap-15588316.php>

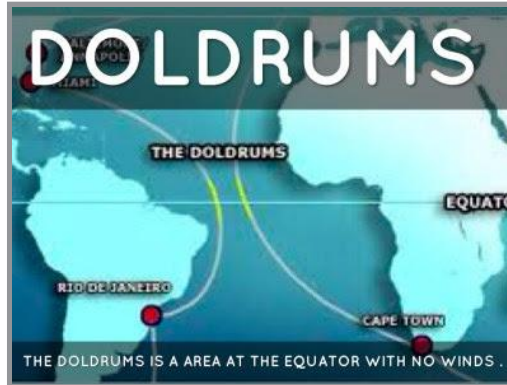
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* <http://uclafacultyassociation.blogspot.com/2020/09/no-training.html>

** <http://uclafacultyassociation.blogspot.com/2020/09/applicable-to-uc.html>

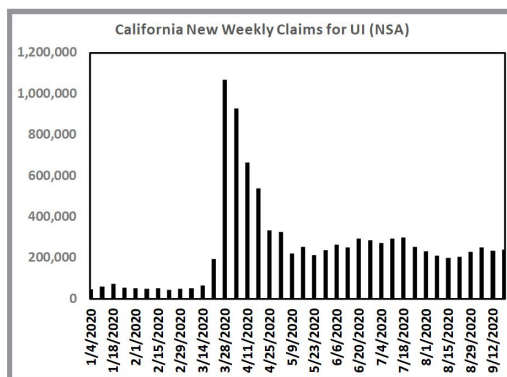
New Unemployment Claims Suggest Labor Market Doldrums

Thursday, September 24, 2020



As we have been doing on a weekly basis, we today look at the data on new claims for unemployment insurance (through Sept. 19) as a proxy for labor market and economic activity. On that basis, we seem to be in a stagnant period. At the national level on a seasonally adjusted basis, there was a slight increase in weekly claims to 870,000 on a preliminary basis. Without adjustment, the increase was somewhat higher.

California data also show a small uptick without adjustment. (Adjusted data are not available at the state level.) California continues to show a disproportionate share on ongoing participants in the system (lagged one week), but - as noted in a prior posting - there is significant evidence of fraud in the system.



Note: Future weekly data for California (and for the US) may be affected by the governor's decision to stop accepting new claims in order to catch up with the processing backlog.

As usual, the news release containing the data above is at <https://www.dol.gov/ui/data.pdf>.

And if you're tired of all of this slow-motion economic stuff, here is a nostalgic reminder of when things were totally locked down back in March 2020:

or direct to <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WMibo97JYmw>.

Alone at Davis

Thursday, September 24, 2020



From KCRA 3: *This week, hundreds of UC Davis students are moving into their dorm rooms ready to start the fall term with mostly online classes... UC Davis officials said only 1,600 students are staying in the dorms, compared to 6,000 students before the pandemic. However, students are seeing a big change this year: No one can have a roommate.*

Students on campus told KCRA 3 they are excited to have their own room. As soon as students arrive on campus with their belongings, they have to walk to a nearby parking structure for COVID-19 testing. There, students get two tests. One is the nasal swab test and the other is the saliva test, which produces results in 24 hours. It's a pilot test on campus that could be rolled out to the community if it's proven effective in catching the virus. Students are required to wear masks, wash their hands frequently and do a daily assessment of their health. They will also have to take their food to-go in the dining commons and are being told not to congregate in large groups...

Full story at <https://www.kcra.com/article/no-roommates-allowed-uc-davis-students-move-into-dorms/34128411>

Women's Basketball Practice Resumes

Thursday, September 24, 2020



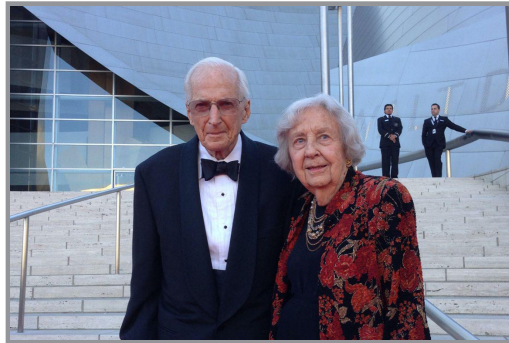
From the LA Times: *Nothing has been certain during the past six months. That's why Cori Close is even more grateful for days like Wednesday. After half a year without her players, the UCLA women's basketball coach welcomed some back to campus for their first group workouts of the new season. The eight players who returned and passed a weeklong quarantine were split into two socially distant training cohorts. No one was allowed in the locker room. Coaches wore masks. Everyone was separated by 10 feet — still an improvement after being states and countries apart for so long.*

"There have just been so many things going on that we have been venturing to attempt to do together, but it's just really hard to connect," Close said. "It was really good to see them face to face, to be with them and I'm really proud of this group of young women..."

Full story at <https://www.latimes.com/sports/ucla/story/2020-09-24/ucla-womens-basketball-practice-together-after-six-months-quarantine-coronavirus>

Donation

Friday, September 25, 2020



This blog likes to highlight donations to the university that don't involve bricks and mortar but do support teaching, research, and students. Here is a recent one:

UCLA has received more than \$8.7 million from the estate of the late Bernice Wenzel and Wendell “Jeff” Jeffrey, UCLA professors who were well known for their longtime commitment to the university

More than \$4.5 million of their gift will support four faculty chairs, scholarships, fellowships and colloquia in the UCLA College’s psychology department. The couple had previously endowed the department’s annual Jeffrey Lecture series and the Wendell Jeffrey and Bernice Wenzel Term Chair in Behavioral Neuroscience.

“Bernice Wenzel and Wendell Jeffrey were incredible supporters of UCLA Psychology and firm believers in collaborative education and research among students and faculty alike,” said department chair Annette Stanton. “We are deeply grateful for their own contributions to science and society and for their continuing commitment to training talented students and retaining exceptional faculty.”

Another \$4.05 million has been given to the UCLA Herb Alpert School of Music for scholarships in the department of music. Undergraduates, including transfer students, and graduate students will be eligible for support, which will help advance the school’s goal of improving diversity, equity and inclusion.

“Scholarships are of incredible importance as we welcome and support superlative students, regardless of their ability to fund their education,” said Eileen Stempel, dean of the school of music. “We deeply appreciate Bernice Wenzel and Wendell Jeffrey’s generosity in making musical education more accessible for generations to come.”

The rest of the funds will support the Hammer Museum at UCLA, the UCLA Emeriti/Retirees Relations Center and the UCLA Library, along with the annual Henry J. Bruman Chamber Music Festival in the UCLA College’s division of humanities. The range of benefiting areas highlights Wenzel’s and Jeffrey’s diverse interests. Lifelong learners, the two led distinguished careers as scientists but also enjoyed music, art and travel together, giving not only to UCLA but also to the Los Angeles Philharmonic and the Ojai Music Festival.

The couple maintained a unique connection with UCLA, where they spent significant portions of their careers. Wenzel was a professor in the department of physiology and the department of psychiatry and biobehavioral sciences and served as an assistant dean for educational research at the medical school from 1974 to 1989. Known for her groundbreaking discovery that pigeons smell and use sight and sound to guide themselves, she also helped break the glass ceiling as part of the first generation of female professors.

Jeffrey was a developmental psychologist in the psychology department, studying the learning processes of young children and mentoring graduate students by supervising research, facilitating collaboration and introducing them to well-known experts. Many of his protégés went on to become professors themselves.

The two hosted numerous student gatherings on campus and at their home, and they remained deeply engaged with UCLA after their retirement. They regularly visited campus, and Wenzel served as president of the emeriti association in 1994–95. She also was part of the Wednesday Group, a group of retired faculty and campus leaders that continued to meet weekly at the Faculty Center. Jeffrey died in 2015 and Wenzel in 2018.

“Bernice and Wendell were Bruins through and through, and their investment in education and the arts at UCLA will remain a fitting testament to their generosity and wisdom,” said Lynn Andrews, the couple’s niece, who recalls visiting her aunt and uncle on campus and benefiting from their philanthropic and artistic influences. “Having them in the family — whether my own or UCLA’s — was always an extra-special blessing.”

Source: <https://newsroom.ucla.edu/releases/ucla-faculty-couple-9-million-psychology-music>

Do not enter?

Friday, September 25, 2020



We noted in an earlier post that Stanford - a private university - was planning to close its campus to outsiders in the context of the coronavirus crisis.* The idea has surfaced for public universities. As we have noted in the case of UCLA, it is not clear how it could be done as a practical matter. There are many ways to enter the campus; are we going to station guards at each one? And, as a public space, there would seem to be legal issues. We have also noted that the UCLA campus (apart from the medical area), seems to be used as a public park by outsiders.

Nonetheless, see below from [Berkeleyside](#):

UC Berkeley may ban walking, biking and running through campus

The ban on outside visitors is in response to a state recommendation that universities limit visitors as much as possible. It is unclear how much Cal intends to enforce the new guidelines, however.

UC Berkeley is considering prohibiting the broader Berkeley community from walking, running or bicycling through the campus as a way to stem the spread of the coronavirus.

Cal officials have not officially announced a campus closure, but a draft document titled "State-Mandated Temporary Closure of Campus to the General Public" was provided to Berkeleyside. University officials have submitted the document to city of Berkeley officials and "once we have received and considered the city leaders' input, the proposal will be submitted to the Chancellor for approval and if approved would become campus policy," according to an email sent by Janet Gilmore, a university spokesperson...

Full story at <https://www.berkeleyside.com/2020/09/24/uc-berkeley-shut-campus-ban>

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* <https://uclafacultyassociation.blogspot.com/2020/08/stanford-closing-most-of-its->

[campus-to.html](#)

A Bunch of Times

Friday, September 25, 2020



From the [San Francisco Chronicle](#):

*U.S. Sen. Dianne Feinstein's husband finds himself in the middle of the latest University of California admissions scandal, accused in a state audit of improperly using his clout to help an applicant get into the elite public system. But Richard Blum, a UC regent, told *The Chronicle* he's done nothing wrong and has been writing letters on behalf of many friends and family for years.*

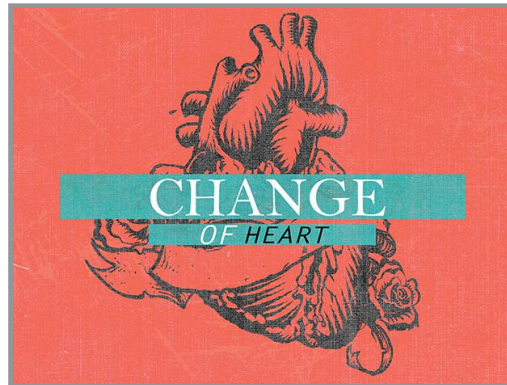
"I did it a bunch of times," Blum said, adding that he has never considered it a problem to write recommendation letters directly to chancellors and bypassing the traditional admissions process.

However, a policy prohibiting such influence has been in place throughout Blum's 18-year tenure on the Board of Regents...

Full story at <https://www.sfchronicle.com/education/article/UC-Regent-Richard-Blum-named-in-admissions-15594754.php>

Change of Heart

Friday, September 25, 2020



From CNN: *The Pac-12 Conference voted Thursday to return to play college football this fall. Beginning November 6, each team in the Pac-12 will play seven conference-only games, with the championship game scheduled for December 18.*

The vote marks a reversal from the conference's previous stance, as it voted to postpone fall sports back in August, along with the Big Ten. The Big Ten, however, reversed that decision earlier this month, announcing it would begin play in October -- leaving the Pac-12 as the only Power Five conference still postponing.

Still, the conference's announcement comes while multiple college football games have been postponed because of Covid-19 concerns...

Full story at <https://www.cnn.com/2020/09/24/us/pac-12-college-football-trnd-spt/index.html>

Note: The Pac-12 includes Berkeley and UCLA.

Another Noteworthy Donation

Saturday, September 26, 2020



Goldberg and Riley

As part of our continuing salute to donations to the university that don't require brick and mortar (see yesterday's "Donation" posting), we take note of the one described below:

UCLA School of Law has received a \$15 million donation from the Federated Indians of Graton Rancheria to advance the study and practice of Native American law. The gift is the largest ever contribution that a tribe has made to a law school and one of the biggest in history from a tribe to a university. The funds will be dedicated to scholarships for Native American and other students interested in pursuing careers as tribal legal advocates.

The gift will create the Graton Scholars program at UCLA Law's Native Nations Law and Policy Center. Graton Scholars will be among the best and brightest Native students and others interested in pursuing careers as tribal advocates. Each year, they will receive full-tuition scholarships that will cover all three years of law school at UCLA Law, which is well established as the nation's premier law school for Indian law.

"This is one of the largest gifts to support scholarships in UCLA history, and we are incredibly grateful to the Federated Indians of Graton Rancheria for this visionary investment, which bolsters our university's longtime commitment to service in Indian country and the success of Native people everywhere," said UCLA Chancellor Gene Block. "This gift allows us to recruit the very best candidates to pursue their legal education at UCLA and prepare for careers as impactful advocates for Native Nations."

The announcement of the gift, which is also among the largest contributions to the law school in its seven-decade history, comes just days before the 53rd annual California Native American Day is celebrated, on Sept. 25.

"Tribal law is a cornerstone of Native Americans' quest for equality and inclusion within the U.S. justice system," said Federated Indians of Graton Rancheria Tribal Chairman Greg Sarris, who received his undergraduate degree from UCLA and returned to teach English for more than a decade. "UCLA's commitment to educating and preparing the next generation of tribal legal advocates is personally known to me, as an alumnus and former UCLA professor. We hope this gift will begin the drive for equity for our people in our native land. It's particularly fitting that our announcement coincides with this Friday's California Native American Day, which celebrates and honors the historic and cultural

contributions by California Native Americans.”

Jennifer Mnookin, dean of UCLA Law, said, “We at UCLA Law are immensely proud of our national leadership in Indian law. Thanks to this extraordinary contribution, our faculty, staff and students will have far greater opportunities to collaborate in promoting tribal sovereignty, cultural resource protection, Native American child welfare and economic development in Indian country — work whose impact will last for generations. I am tremendously grateful to the Federated Indians of Graton Rancheria for this vision, generosity and recognition of UCLA Law’s strength in this area.”

For decades, UCLA Law has been recognized as a leader among the nation’s preeminent law schools in developing courses, programs and scholarship addressing the legal standing and rights of Native Nations. The first legal casebook in federal Indian law was written by UCLA Law faculty, and the school developed the first joint degree program in law and American Indian studies.

UCLA Law’s Tribal Legal Development Clinic provides free legal services to tribes in the areas of constitution drafting and revision, tribal code development, establishment and operation of tribal court systems, and negotiation of cooperative agreements with local cities, counties and states to coordinate initiatives and services. Students in the clinic have acquired vital understanding and skills through on-site collaboration with tribal leaders, officials and community members.

“For decades, Native American students and those seeking a way of serving Native Nations have come to UCLA to gain an unparalleled education in Indian law and American Indian studies, launching them into influential careers in the field,” said Carole Goldberg, the Jonathan D. Varat Distinguished Professor of Law Emerita and founding director of the joint degree program in law and American Indian studies. “This exceptionally generous gift will enable the most talented and committed students to join them as powerful tribal advocates.”

UCLA Law Professor Angela Riley directs the Native Nations Law and Policy Center and currently serves as chief justice of the Supreme Court of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation, her tribe’s highest court.

“This gift is a remarkable benefit to students, scholars and advocates whose hard work through the NNLPC advances the rights of Native Nations,” Riley said. “We are deeply honored that the Federated Indians of Graton Rancheria chose to so strongly support our work to preserve and promote the rich history, culture and legal institutions of Native Nations across Indian country.”

Source: <https://newsroom.ucla.edu/releases/ucla-law-donation-scholarships-native-american-law>

A Bunch of Times - Part 2

Saturday, September 26, 2020



Blog readers will recall our recent post about Regent Blum's letters on behalf of applicants for admission that appear to be contrary to Regental standards. Blum said it was no big deal and that he did it "a bunch of times."*

According to the LA Times, in one case he wrote to the chancellor at Berkeley on behalf of an applicant on the waiting list. The letter did get attention. Among other things, it noted a donation to the law school an associated of Blum was poised to make.

There are two noteworthy elements in the story. One is that although the state auditor got the documents from Berkeley, Berkeley doesn't seem to have them. (Did the auditor get the original with no one making copies at Berkeley?)

...(Berkeley spokesperson Janet) Gilmore... said Berkeley officials have asked the auditor for the underlying documents that led to the findings "for several months now" but have not yet directly received any material...

The other is that the applicant was ultimately not admitted, despite the special attention the case received.

...The redacted emails appeared to indicate that the applicant was not admitted...

Although the letter was "accepted" by Berkeley contrary to policy and discussed, it appears that ultimately officials did the right thing, even if Blum didn't. It's not clear what would define not "accepting" the letter. Trashing it? Return to sender? No such chancellor at this address? The problem was at Blum's end of the transaction, at least in this case.** There is no way that a letter from a regent to a chancellor is not going to receive some measure of attention.

An ethics review of Blum's actions is now underway.

The article is at <https://www.latimes.com/california/story/2020-09-25/how-uc-berkeley->

[handled-a-regents-inappropriate-support-letter-to-get-student-admitted](#)

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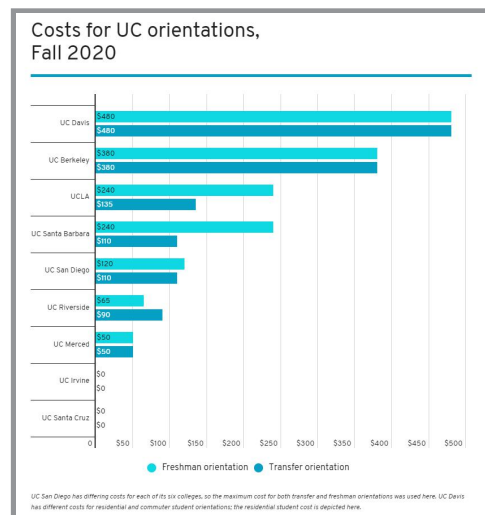
* <https://uclafacultyassociation.blogspot.com/2020/09/a-bunch-of-times.html>

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**UPDATE: Later news stories indicate that another applicant endorsed by Blum was accepted.

Costs of Zoom Orientations

Saturday, September 26, 2020



Click on chart to clarify.

According to CalMatters, incoming students are complaining about the cost of "attending" online orientations. Perhaps also of interest is the wide variation in the costs; the range, as can be seen above, runs from free to \$480.

Full story at <https://calmatters.org/education/higher-education/college-beat-higher-education/2020/09/college-orientation-fees/>

A Bunch of Times - Part 3

Sunday, September 27, 2020



Yesterday, Regent Blum released a statement concerning the scandal of admissions letters we have reported on in prior posts.* The release is below:

Statement by Richard Blum regarding letters of recommendation for University of California applicants

NEWS PROVIDED BY

Richard Blum

Sep 26, 2020, 12:57 ET

SAN FRANCISCO, Sept. 26, 2020 /PRNewswire/ -- "Over the last 18 years, I have written more than a dozen letters of recommendation for applicants seeking admission to the University of California. I forwarded those letters to the Office of the Chancellors.

"On no occasion did I receive feedback that that was not the appropriate protocol and that letters needed to be sent to the Director of Admissions.

"Moreover, I was never informed about whether any of the applicants for whom I wrote letters were later accepted for admission and I never inquired about the ultimate decisions in these cases.

"I respect the findings and concerns reflected in the audit. It was never my intention to circumvent or unfairly influence the admissions process. I do not intend to write letters of recommendation going forward."

Media Contact:

Owen Blicksilver

Lambert

Oblicksilver@lambert.com

516-742-5950

Source: <https://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/statement-by-richard-blum-regarding-letters-of-recommendation-for-university-of-california-applicants-301138572.html>

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Note 1: The Lambert firm releasing this statement has a website indicating it is an "investor relations" and "public relations" company: <https://lambert.com/firm-overview/>. Owen Blicksilver - the media contact - is identified as company president: <https://lambert.com/team/owen-blicksilver/>.

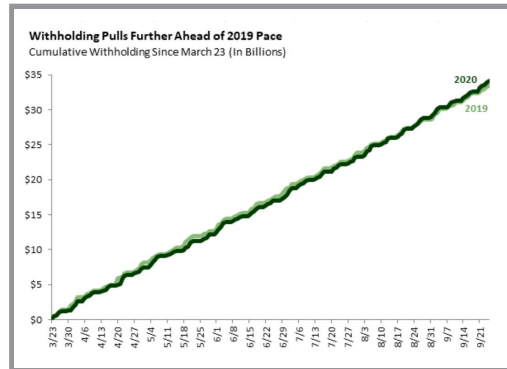
Note 2: This matter now leaks over into the political realm since Blum is the husband of Senator Dianne Feinstein who will be the senior Democrat at the upcoming hearings on the recent Supreme Court nominee. It also might have some effect - although it is not clear in which direction - on Prop 16 (ending ban on affirmative action, especially UC admissions).

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*Prior postings are at <http://uclafacultyassociation.blogspot.com/2020/09/a-bunch-of-times-part-2.html> and <http://uclafacultyassociation.blogspot.com/2020/09/a-bunch-of-times.html>.

Budget Impact May Not Be As Bad As Might Have Been Expected

Sunday, September 27, 2020



There are indications that the budget impact of the coronavirus recession may be less than originally anticipated. (That's not the same as saying the impact was good, of course.) As can be seen from the chart above from the Legislative Analyst's Office (LAO), income tax withholding cumulative since the start of the crisis is slightly ahead of last year in nominal terms. In real terms (inflation-adjusted), that is likely a small decline. But still...

The chart is from <https://lao.ca.gov/LAOEconTax/Article/Detail/554>.

For just the two months of the new fiscal year (2020-21), both the Dept. of Finance and the state controller expected all state tax receipts to the general fund to be about \$36 billion. And both are reporting that actual receipts were in fact higher at about \$40 billion.

See <https://sco.ca.gov/Files-ARD/CASH/August2020StatementofGeneralFundCashReceiptsandDisbursements.pdf>
and http://dof.ca.gov/Forecasting/Economics/Economic_and_Revenue_Updates/documents/2020/Sep-20.pdf.

Prospect List

Monday, September 28, 2020



Inside Higher Ed today has a lengthy piece on the UC admissions scandal. It notes a special "**prospect list**" at Berkeley that was featured in the state auditor report:

...The (auditor) report was especially critical of Berkeley, saying that campus "admitted children of staff and donors instead of more qualified applicants."

In many cases, the admissions officers at Berkeley who read applications wanted to do the right thing but were overruled. For instance, the report notes the child of a staff member and the child of a donor were not recommended for admission by either reader but were admitted. A third applicant -- from a low-income family, who attended "a disadvantaged school" and was in the top 9 percent of the applicant's high school class -- was recommended for admission by both readers. The applicant was rejected.

"In those interactions, the development office often provided the admissions office with the names of applicants connected to donors and potential donors. In one of the years we reviewed, the development office indicated which of the applicants were 'priority.' UC Berkeley admitted every applicant that the development office indicated was a priority. None of these applicants had received ratings on their applications that would have made them competitive on their own merit for admission to UC Berkeley," the report said.

"The former admissions director also openly invited staff to send her names of family and friends who had applied so that she could personally review the applications," the report added. "In 2014, 2015, and 2016, the former admissions director sent an email to UC Berkeley staff offering to review the applications of applicants they might know, in one year describing that she was doing so 'in the spirit of professional camaraderie.'"

The report added, "Finally, UC Berkeley allowed admissions staff to request preferential treatment for relatives and donors by using a process intended to benefit applicants who come from disadvantaged backgrounds. UC Berkeley allows admissions staff to nominate applicants for additional consideration by placing them on a list it calls the prospect list. The emails that UC Berkeley's admissions leadership sent to admissions staff indicate that the prospect list is for applicants who participate in UC Berkeley's

outreach programs, which generally assist disadvantaged high school and transfer students in preparing for and applying to college. The emails from the two more recent years -- 2018 and 2019 -- also state that the staff could add 'other applicants to watch.' Although the majority of applicants whom admissions staff nominated were connected with these outreach programs, staff also placed applicants on the prospect list for inappropriate reasons, including the applicants' connections to donors, staff, and faculty. UC Berkeley admitted several of these applicants while denying admission to similar or better-rated students whom staff legitimately had placed on the prospect list because they had participated in a campus outreach program -- the very applicants whom the prospect list was supposed to benefit." ...

Full story at: <https://www.insidehighered.com/admissions/article/2020/09/28/university-california-admissions-scandal-worsens>

Anyone at Murphy Hall Working on Plan C?

Monday, September 28, 2020



Murphy Hall under construction: 1936

We started with a plan (Plan A?) for some degree of reopening in fall quarter, but later in the summer it was revised to Plan B. All of this planning was based on state and county guidelines, medical information, etc., about the coronavirus situation.

Nowadays, however, as the fall quarter actually begins, there are more and more news stories about a potential political crisis after Election Day, a situation in which the election will be contested, possibly with litigation and possibly ending up in Congress in early 2021. One can imagine civil unrest occurring if these scenarios play out.

Let's hope all goes peacefully. But, if not, is there a Plan C being worked out somewhere in Murphy Hall for such a contingency, a contingency which could affect both fall and winter quarters? If there isn't, maybe now's the time to start working on it. Just a suggestion...

Another Regent

Tuesday, September 29, 2020



Although much attention in the recent admissions scandal has focused on Regent Blum, another regent appears to have been involved, although quite a bit earlier:

From the San Francisco Chronicle ...The emails released by the auditor also reveal a cozy relationship between the admissions office and the UC Berkeley Foundation responsible for raising money. The documents include a letter to Christ from an unnamed former regent inquiring about a different applicant and reminding her, in a brief postscript, that he had recently gotten a client of his to donate to the university.

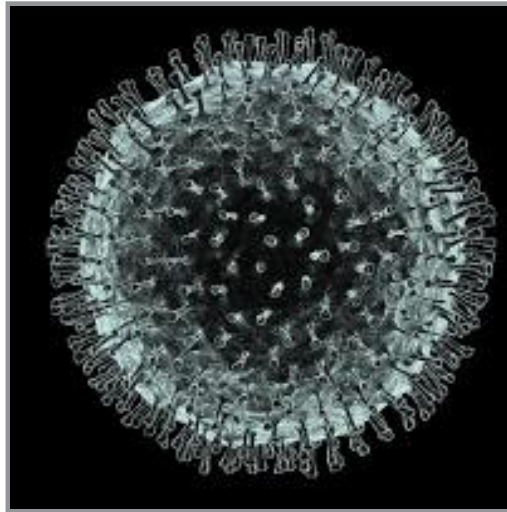
*The Chronicle has learned that the former regent is **William Bagley**, who said in an interview that the donation was for \$1 million. It's not clear whether UC Berkeley admitted the student...*

Full story at <https://www.sfchronicle.com/bayarea/article/Emails-suggest-cozy-relationship-between-UC-15604434.php>

Bagley served as a regent from 1989 to 2002.

Remote Work Through Winter Quarter

Wednesday, September 30, 2020

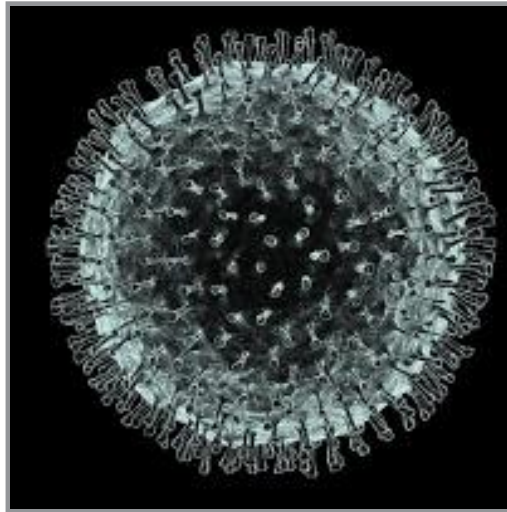


*From an email circulated late yesterday afternoon:***To: Faculty and Staff** Dear Colleagues: I know you have made extraordinary efforts to continue serving UCLA's mission of education, research and service amidst the challenges of the past six months, and the entire campus leadership team thanks you for your perseverance and dedication. In order to continue to limit the number of people on campus and thereby reduce the risk of COVID-19 transmission, **we ask those of you who have been successfully working remotely to continue doing so through March 19, 2021**, which is the end of winter quarter. This follows a recommendation from UCLA's COVID-19 Response and Recovery Task Force. Discussions about the status of winter quarter instruction are underway and we will share information as soon as it is available. As with our previous announcement that extended remote work, this change does not apply to personnel who have been working on campus, to those associated with the ramp-up of UCLA research or to instructors and support staff who receive approval to conduct their winter courses with an on-campus component. Some staff at UCLA's K-12 schools may be asked to return to work in person sooner than March and will receive advance notice if applicable. As needs change, certain other faculty and staff may be asked to return to campus sooner than March as well. The extension also does not apply to UCLA Health, David Geffen School of Medicine (DGSOM) and School of Dentistry staff who are directly engaged in clinical care or training. UCLA Health and DGSOM employees and clinical trainees who are currently working remotely will receive additional directions from their leadership by December 1. Those working remotely in the School of Dentistry will also receive additional guidance shortly. Staff and faculty should confirm with their supervisors and department heads whether this extension of remote work applies to their positions. Any personnel coming to campus for non-healthcare work must adhere to UCLA's requirements for COVID-19 symptom monitoring (PDF). Additional information is available at Bruins Safe Online. We will continue to work closely with public health officials to meet our goal of having everyone return to campus when it is appropriate to do so. In the meantime, I hope that this announcement will be helpful as you plan for the months ahead. I encourage you to read information we've provided on how to work effectively from home, which is available on UCLA's COVID-19 website. We look forward to sharing updates as decisions about winter quarter instruction and other campus operations are made. Thank you again for

ensuring the Bruin spirit remains a source of inspiration and hope during this difficult time.
Sincerely, **Michael J. Beck** Administrative Vice Chancellor

Berkeley Remains Online into Spring Semester

Wednesday, September 30, 2020



From the Daily Cal: UC Berkeley plans to begin its spring semester with remote instruction for at least two weeks, with the majority of classes continuing remotely for the remainder of the semester. According to a campuswide email sent Tuesday from Chancellor Carol Christ, students will not be required to be on campus or take in-person classes next semester. Departments will make alternative classes available to substitute for the small number of courses that will only be offered in person. As with fall 2020, tuition and fees for the spring semester will remain the same, the email stated. The two-week period of fully remote instruction is intended to allow students to self-sequester for seven to 10 days upon returning to campus. The email stated that any courses under consideration for in-person instruction will be limited to 25 students and will be noted in the online class schedule by Oct. 1. Almost all courses will become fully remote if public health conditions do not allow for in-person classes, according to the email...

“As was the case when we announced our plans for the fall, these decisions are dependent on approval from local public health authorities,” Christ said in the email. “We must recognize that we continue to operate amid great uncertainty, as uncomfortable as that may be.”...

The email added that faculty and staff working from home should plan to do so until June 30, although depending on COVID-19 conditions this date may change. More information regarding work arrangements will be released Wednesday...

Full article at <https://www.dailycal.org/2020/09/29/uc-berkeley-to-continue-mostly-remote-instruction-for-spring-2021/>

Less than some; more than others

Wednesday, September 30, 2020



Business Insider reports on endowment returns over the last fiscal year from various institutions during the coronavirus crisis:

MIT 8.3%

Harvard 7.3

Yale 6.8

U of Virginia 5.3

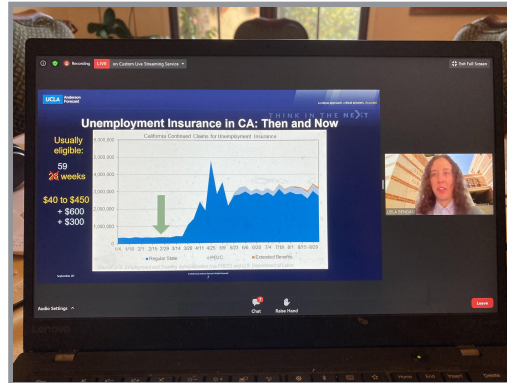
UC 5.0

Median of university endowments from Wall Street Journal 2.6

Data source: <https://markets.businessinsider.com/news/stocks/harvard-university-endowment-gains-beats-rival-yale-coronavirus-volatility-narvekar-2020-9-1029632478>

UCLA Forecast: Recovery Over Two Years (Maybe)

Wednesday, September 30, 2020



The LA Times summarizes today's UCLA Anderson forecast (via Zoom):

California's economy began to bounce back this summer thanks to an infusion of federal jobless benefits and business loans along with the reopening of some workplaces, but a full recovery from the coronavirus downturn will take more than two years, UCLA economists predict. The UCLA Anderson quarterly forecast released Wednesday suggested California payrolls will drop 7.2% this year to 16 million jobs, a loss of some 1.5 million since the COVID-19 pandemic hit. They are expected to climb back slowly, by just 1.3% next year and 3.5% in 2022.

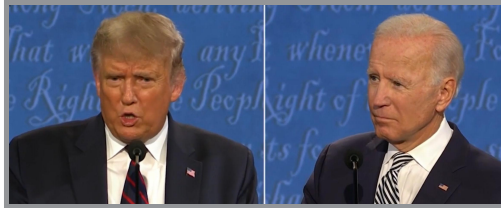
The Golden State's unemployment rate, which was 3.9% in February, will average 10.8% this year, then fall to 8.6% next year and 6.6% in 2022, the forecast calculated. Nonetheless, "the news is not all bad," economist Leila Bengali wrote in the report, noting that some industries are faring far better than others. A precipitous drop in travelers has hammered California's leisure and hospitality sector, where payrolls are projected to fall 25% this year, but "the housing market is an area where we project particular strength and a quick recovery to pre-recession levels."...

Full story at <https://www.latimes.com/business/story/2020-09-30/california-economy-ucla-anderson-forecast>. The entire Forecast is available on YouTube. Click below or go directly to: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=45CWNWshVQo>

Note: Towards the end, there is an interesting discussion about the impact of tech firms as they spread eastward from the Westside of LA and into South LA on the local population, gentrification, jobs, etc. Go to 3:06:00.

Anyone at Murphy Hall Working on Plan C? - Part 2 (post-debate)

Wednesday, September 30, 2020



In a recent post, we noted that the folks in Murphy Hall who have been planning various opening and remote scenarios moved from a Plan A (some mix of in-person and remote courses) to Plan B (almost all remote). We also noted that the "remoteness" of the fall quarter now seems to be continuing through winter quarter.* Mainly, we suggested that Murphy Hall planning ought to take account of social unrest that could easily occur after Election Day.

If you watched last night's presidential "debate," especially the last segment on the election and its potential aftermath, you will know about the risk. If not, you can see it here:

or direct to <https://www.facebook.com/daniel.j.b.mitchell/videos/1015911377266522/>

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* <http://uclafacultyassociation.blogspot.com/2020/09/anyone-at-murphy-hall-working-on-plan-c.html> and <http://uclafacultyassociation.blogspot.com/2020/09/remote-work-through-winter-quarter.html>



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