

**UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
REGENTS' COMMUNICATION
Item for Information**

Subject: Faculty Governance Update – Peaceful Protest

On December 23, 2011, Senate Assembly approved the following resolution on the right of peaceful protest by a vote of 54 for, 1 against and 1 abstention:

Resolution regarding the right of students and faculty to protest peacefully on college campuses (UC Berkeley and UC Davis police assaults)

(Approved unanimously by SACUA on December 5, 2011)

(Approved by Senate Assembly on December 23, 2011)

On two University of California campuses during the month of November, students and faculty who were peacefully protesting tuition increases were assaulted by police officers dispatched by the chancellors of UC Berkeley and UC Davis, respectively. On 9 November, students and faculty who were peacefully protesting at UC Berkeley were injured by police who hit some of them and forcibly threw one faculty member to the ground by her hair. At UC Davis, on November 18 a peaceful demonstration of students and faculty against the tuition rises, resulted in students seated on the curb with joined arms being assaulted face on with pepper gas. Several students were hospitalized and others were injured. A large number of students and faculty at UC Davis as well as supporters world wide have called for the resignation of the UC Davis Chancellor (See report in the Sacramento Bee of 27 November, 2011:

<http://www.sacbee.com/2011/11/27/4080633/uc-davis-chancellor-must-do-the.html>). Both UC campus assaults on students and faculty have been documented in video recordings that have received thousands of “hits” on the Internet worldwide.

We, the members of SACUA, join with our faculty and student colleagues in California and with the National AAUP, in condemning the attacks at the UC campuses. We stand with our colleagues and their students who were attacked and arrested. We support the rights of university faculty and students to non-violent protest. Along with our University of California colleagues and the National AAUP, we call upon the board of regents of the University of California and UC administrations to [refrain immediately from further use of police against nonviolent protesters and, instead, to defend the rights of students, faculty, and staff to demonstrate peacefully] (paraphrase of excerpt of the AAUP statement). We call upon university administrations and their governance bodies nation wide to exercise every restraint and to encourage dialogue should such peaceful demonstrations occur on their campuses.

Submitted: January 2012

(On behalf of SACUA)