EXECUTIVE VICE CHANCELLORS

Dear Colleagues:

I’m writing to follow up on our April 30th conversation regarding long-term funding of the student and teacher stipends for the Science and Mathematics Initiative (SMI). In agenda materials you received earlier, we provided tables showing the total current costs of SMI, as well as projections for next year (2008-09), and eventual steady state costs (2009-10 and thereafter). I’m asking that we revisit our planning for the teacher and student stipends so that we can assure a steady source of support for new students enrolling as the program grows in future years.

SMI is flourishing. Enrollments are rising and two of our campuses recently received major national grants. Also, the SMI effort overall was recently recognized at a prestigious national meeting, where the issue of science/math teaching was spotlighted; every UC campus is participating in this important effort. While each campus has adapted the program to local circumstances, principal program elements are consistent across the sites: early recruitment, practicums in local schools under the tutelage of mentor teachers, and student stipends for all academic terms for which they enroll in the practicum courses. Stipends also are given to mentor K-12 teachers for their work in the program.

My staff has conferred with campus SMI leadership and, based upon the estimates they provided, the regular instructional costs incurred by the program are covered through enrollment funds generated by SMI, along with the $250,000 per campus annual allocation. I want to emphasize that these annual $250,000 SMI allocations are permanent and will continue at their present level. We need to reach agreement, however, on plans for generating private monies for the stipends for the longer term.

Several of you have suggested that UCOP and campuses split 50/50 the cost of the stipends. At estimated steady-state this would amount to an annual UCOP contribution of $2.8M, with individual campuses providing a 50% share of stipends (from privately solicited funds) for their students.

SMI capitalizes on UC’s unique strengths in math and science. As the program grows, it has the capacity to make a major contribution to the State’s teaching corps and an important public service contribution to California’s social and economic future. I look forward to our conversation and to the continued success of SMI.

Sincerely,

Wyatt R. Hume
Provost and Executive Vice President
cc:   Vice Provost Justus
      Deputy Heisel
      Director Callahan