

MEDIA ADVISORY

For immediate release: September 16th, 2010

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UC employees conduct citizens arrest of President Yudof for his plan to "steal from the poor, give to the rich"

Proposed retirement changes would slash employee benefits while increasing those to UC executives.

WHEN: 7:45am, Thursday September 16, 2010

WHERE: UCSF Mission Bay Campus (Community Center, at Owens St)

VISUALS: 100+ employees with "wanted signs", 12-foot tall puppet of Yudof, picket line

SAN FRANCISCO— Large demonstrations against UC President Mark Yudof are expected Thursday, as employees protest his recommended changes to retirement benefits. Despite having one of the best funded pension plans in the country, the UC Post Employment Benefit Task Force, led by Yudof, issued a report two weeks ago proposing cuts for ordinary workers while increasing payouts for executives. Employees are planning a "citizens arrest" of the UC President.

"This is stealing from the poor and giving to the rich," says Tanya Smith, a retired editor from UC Berkeley and member of University Professional and Technical Employees, CWA 9119. "Workers who make \$26,000 a year and retire at age 65 after 20 years of service would see their \$12,202 annual pension decrease by 36% to \$7,800. Meanwhile a UC executive who makes \$360,000 would see their \$121,702 benefit increase by almost 50% to \$180,000. This is no surprise from a pension robber baron like Mark Yudof," added Smith noting that Yudof was hired in 2008 with a pension perk paying him \$350,000 year, for the rest of his life, if he works just 7 years.

"These devastating retirement cuts that UC executives are pursuing would force the lowest paid employees at UC onto public assistance," says Julian Posadas, a principal food service worker at UC Santa Barbara and member of AFSCME. "California can't afford further strain on its budget."

"It's true that the pension needs to be funded," say Bob Samuels, a lecturer at UCLA and member of UC-AFT, "but such drastic changes to benefits are not needed. Many of the long-term projections for the underfunding were made during the lowest point of the financial meltdown. In fact, after the UC pension lost \$16 billion in 2008 and 2009, it gained back \$10 billion in 2010. Furthermore, only a small fraction of the amount needed to fund the plan would come from state. UC is using a struggling California economy to push through massive cuts that are not necessary."

For background on UC's proposal see [AFSCME 3299's report](#).

AFSCME Local 3299, CUE-Teamsters Local 2010, American Federation of Teachers - UC Council, UPTe-CWA Local 9119