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UC STUDENT LEADERS RESPOND TO ALLEGATIONS OF REGENT MISCONDUCT

OAKLAND, CA – In response to Rebecca Ora's allegations of sexual misconduct by Regent Kieffer, UC Student Association President Varsha Sarveshwar, UC Graduate & Professional Council President Connor Strobel, and UC Council of Student Body Presidents Co-Chairs Shane Wood and Davon Thomas released the following statement:

"The UC Student Association, the UC Graduate Professional Council, and the UC Council of Student Body Presidents have zero tolerance for sexual harassment and sexual violence.

We are deeply troubled by Rebecca's allegations on November 13, 2019. According to [Regents Policy 1112](#), "members of the Board are expected to conduct themselves ethically, honestly, and in a manner that strengthens the public's trust and confidence." It is unacceptable for any Regent, as well as the board as a whole, to commit, enable, tolerate, and be complicit in acts of sexual harassment and sexual violence.

We believe Rebecca, and we agree that the process for reviewing her case is deeply flawed. [Regents Policy 1112](#) essentially requires Regents to hold themselves accountable by tasking a three-member panel of Regents to oversee an investigation. This is not survivor-centered, trauma-informed, impartial, or just, and it clearly prioritizes the powerful over those who may have been harmed. The policy only references the concept of the complainant once, and even goes so far to state more than once that the "preliminary investigation should be conducted in a manner designed to minimize any intrusion into the accused Regent's personal or non-University affairs."

Title IX of the Civil Rights Act requires universities to review complaints by students, staff, and faculty using trained, independent personnel. The UC Board of Regents should be no different. This is the second reported case of alleged misconduct in recent years, and it is time for the Regents – and as well as state elected officials – to act.

We call for a new policy, drafted by a committee of University stakeholders that includes students, workers, elected officials who serve as ex-officio regents, and other relevant groups. This new policy should include:

- A clear process for complainants to file cases of misconduct;
- An independent, third-party investigator, hired by the state government, which would be in sole charge of handling the complaint and whose work and findings are entirely independent from the pressure and influence of the Board of Regents;
- A clear and reasonable timeline for the investigation, evaluation, and resolution of the complaint, and a transparent and consistent process for enacting sanctions;
- Independent resources and counsel for claimants that are independent from the Board; and,
- An annual audit report summarizing all complaints submitted at the July Regents meeting.

All members of the UC community, Rebecca included, deserve this kind of fair, impartial process to adjudicate complaints. If an independent, third-party investigation confirms her allegations, Regent Kieffer should be removed from the board."

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