

PRIVATIZATION of UC?

What would it mean? How would you recognize it?
Who would gain and who would lose?

A cartoon in the March 7, 2005 issue of The New Yorker magazine, page 28, drawn by William Hamilton, shows a group of money men enjoying themselves, and one of them says, "This just might be the greatest period of privatization since feudalism."

From the Berkeleyan (10/28/04) on Chancellor Robert Birgeneau's first appearance before the Berkeley Division of the Academic Senate:

He has already heard, he said, from a number of people, including donors, who believe that the only strategy for the future "is one that takes us in the direction of privatizing the university. I want to state unambiguously and unequivocally that if Berkeley wants a chancellor who will lead in the privatization direction, it should find someone else and I'll go back to the lab," he said to much applause.

RESOLUTION for the April 25, 2005 meeting of the Berkeley Division:

WHEREAS the University of California has experienced serious budget cuts in recent years due to fiscal problems of the State; and
WHEREAS many public universities throughout the nation are experiencing difficult financial times, which some observers see as not just temporary problems; and
WHEREAS a steep and continuing increase in student fees has been the main response to this financial strain on the University; and
WHEREAS comparisons have begun to appear between the situations of public universities and private universities; and
WHEREAS there appears to be a widespread lack of understanding about these interrelated issues; be it therefore

RESOLVED, that the Berkeley Division of the Academic Senate hereby creates a Special Committee, to be appointed by the Committee on Committees, with the following charge.

1. To study, both qualitatively and quantitatively, various questions related to the subject of possible privatization of this public university, such as:
 - a) What attributes of a distinguished Public research university are similar to those of a Private one; and what attributes are different?
 - b) How have these similarities and differences evolved over time?
 - c) What future signposts could one identify as marking significant steps in a transformation from Public to Private?
2. To conduct open forums to advance discourse on these questions.
3. To present a written report to the Division, perhaps with recommendations, by the end of the next academic year.

Sponsored by the following Faculty members

Susan Ervin-Tripp (Psychology) Richard Felciano (Music)
Ronald Gronsky (Mat. Sci. & Engin.) I. Michael Heyman (Law)
Carlos Munoz, Jr. (Ethnic Studies) Laura Nader (Anthropology)
J. B. Neilands (Biochemistry) Charles Schwartz (Physics) Ann Smock (French)
Lawrence Waldron (ESPM) John Watson (Psychology)