

April 29, 2016

We, the #FireKatehi movement, are writing in response to news of former chancellor Linda P.B. Katehi's 90-day administrative leave. After a 36 day live-in and 57 continuous days of protest, our efforts have proven effective; our actions have refocused public attention and discussion directly on the corruption prevalent in UC Davis' administrative actions; and, more broadly, our movement has addressed the systematic failure of the University of California's undemocratically appointed leadership on a statewide level. The collective efforts of UC Davis students, faculty, staff, and community members are responsible for yielding this result. It is crucial to note that it was *not* Janet Napolitano, or UCOP, who led us to this moment of justice, but our uncollapsing spirit and belief in political protest. In addition, the solidarity and persistence from our group and our allies across the nation fueled the fire of our fight.

Linda Katehi's participation in the exploitation and concealment of the steadfast privatization and corporatization of the University of California, Davis is reflective of the capitalistic corruption of our university and the entire UC system. These are symptoms of a neoliberal capitalist system that prioritizes profits over the needs of a community who deserves an accessible and just education. Because the UC system has continued to operate under a for-profit model, we have seen a trend of tuition hikes, increased class sizes, the expansion of upper-level administration, increased fund allocation toward branding and public relations, increases in administrative pay, and an emphasis on construction projects in the name of branding. This needs to change, and unfortunately, firing the chancellor is only the prologue.

Although her 90-day leave is a partial victory, we recognize that unless it is accompanied by systematic changes these injustices will persist. We will utilize the momentum that we have built in order to move forward with the greater goals of this movement: to disentangle and to correct the undemocratic appointment of executive administrators to this public institution.

Now operating under a corporate model, the UC system focuses its efforts and funds on public image rather than to serve its community. We see this with Napolitano's conveniently-timed investigation of Katehi's actions with regard to misuse of UC Davis funds, as well as a number of questionable hiring practices and promotions. We also see this with the placement of our former chancellor on a 90-day *paid* administrative leave. The Regents and Napolitano cannot earn our trust by using Katehi to appease us. We – students, workers, and taxpayers – still lack the power to decide who represents our university. Katehi is but a cog in the UC machine. We are aiming to scrap the prototype and create a new system that both works for and is run by students, faculty, workers, and the community at large.

Until system-wide change takes place, our demonstrations will continue. We would like to thank all of the students, staff, faculty, alumni, community members, journalists, investigators, and comrades nation-wide who have supported us, as well as those activists whose work we are building off of. We hope your support will continue as we begin moving toward systemic change.

**This is not over,**

#FireKatehi