The University of California policy on Presidential Chairs, dated July 2, 1981, is set forth in the following pages.
Policy on Presidential Chairs

A fund functioning as an endowment has been established by The Regents to support a continuing program of Presidential Chairs. The initial allocation to the fund will support nine chairs. This number may be augmented by the President with the approval of The Regents. The establishment of Chairs and appointment of Chair holders pursuant to this policy shall conform to the guidelines listed here.

Administrative Guidelines

1. Purpose of the Chairs

Presidential Chairs are intended to encourage new or interdisciplinary program development or to enhance quality in existing academic programs of the University.

2. Support for the Chairs

Allocations to support the program will be provided annually to the Chancellors through the normal budget process. Support for each Chair will be equivalent to the income from a $250,000 share of the program fund. The actual income allocated in any year will depend upon the earnings of the fund in the previous year. The program has been designed as a continuing commitment, and campuses may make permanent commitments for the tenure of any individual Presidential Chair holder.

3. Use of Funds

Funds allocated to the campuses for Presidential Chairs may be used to support instructional activities, research, or other creative activities of the incumbent Chair holder. During periods in which there is no incumbent, campuses may utilize the allocation to support programs in the general academic area of the Chair(s) or carry forward the funds to augment the total amount available for the next incumbent.

The income allocated for the Presidential Chairs may be subdivided to support more than one Chair as long as the minimum level of support for each such Chair, including campus matching funds, is at least equal to the income from $250,000. If the income from any $250,000 allocation of The Regents is subdivided, at least one of the Chairs created must further the program goals stated in 1. above and must be specifically designated as a Presidential Chair. Up to 50 percent of the total allocation to each campus for Presidential Chairs may be permanently encumbered, upon specific
agreement of the President, to establish a base for matching private funds for endowed chairs. Chairs not designated as Presidential Chairs established with these or other funds shall conform to The Regents’ Policy on Endowed Chairs adopted May 16, 1980 and the Administrative Guidelines for Campus Implementation of the Regental Policy on Endowed Chairs issued May 16, 1980.

4. Procedure for Proposing a Presidential Chair

Chancellors shall be responsible for developing proposals to be submitted to the President for utilizing Presidential Chairs. Proposals may select from a range of options to carry out the broad academic purposes intended, e.g., Chairs to be filled on a permanent basis by tenured faculty members, rotating Chairs to be filled by a succession of visiting scholars or members of the campus faculty, or Chairs to be filled in alternate years, with Chair funds to be used for program support in the intervening years.

The Chancellor’s submission to the President shall specify the fields or disciplines in which the Chair(s) will be designated and the relationship of the Chair(s) to campus priorities as indicated in the campus academic plan or other relevant planning documents. Departures from this arrangement would be only as a consequence of consultation with the Academic Senate and with students.

The submission must also indicate the procedure for consultation with the Academic Senate and the students in establishing the Chair and selecting appointees.

5. Appointment of Faculty Members as Presidential Chair Holders

Holders of Presidential Chairs shall be designated by the President of the University on the recommendation of the Chancellor, following established procedures for the appointment of members of the faculty as well as procedures described in section 3 of the Administrative Guidelines of May 16, 1980. No member of the faculty may hold a Presidential Chair while on indefinite leave.

6. Assignment of the Presidential Chairs

Presidential Chairs should be viewed as campuswide resources and are subject to reassignment by the Chancellor at the time an incumbent vacates the Chair. Reassignment will follow the proposal procedure described in 4. above.

7. Responsibility for the Program

The Academic Vice President shall be responsible for Universitywide aspects of this program.