

**President Michael V. Drake Remarks
Board of Regents Special Meeting
UCSF Millberry Union Conference Center
500 Parnassus Avenue, San Francisco
Friday, May 2, 2025
3:00 PM**

Thank you very much, Chair Reilly.

And congratulations, Chancellor Milliken. Great to see you. As you mentioned, Brenda and I met you and Nana nearly 20 years ago – actually a great trip. We met on a bus and spent a week on a bus together, but it was terrific.

Also on that trip was Mark Yudof. And, actually, we were just getting to know Mark and Judy Yudof, and we've had many years of pathway since then and find ourselves together. We'll take a bus ride together again. It'll be fun. But great to be here.

Wonderful to have you joining us. It's going to be great to have you part of our family. I will say that for the group broadly, having known and worked with you in those spheres and watched your career, I have the great confidence that you possess the qualifications, and the vision, and the wisdom to be able to lead this great University and uphold our values moving forward.

Let me say though at this moment also how extremely grateful I am to this broader community for giving me the chance to serve in this role.

I will say – it's a bit mesmerizing to sit here and have this conversation because I went to medical school here. I was here half a century ago looking out these windows at that park and that bridge and that view. And it's fascinating to think of the world and how it's changed in all of those years – things the same in many ways but different in many ways.

I will say that the gratitude that I have to the Board of Regents for supporting me, my colleagues. I will be humbled to say thousands of people who said kind words to me over these years is immeasurable. You know, these jobs are not as easy as they look. And it means a lot for people to say the things they've said.

And I want to say with Nana here as well, and you know this so well. It's a difficult job to do for the principal, extraordinarily difficult for the family, and the support that one needs to be able to do this. They're expensive jobs, and they take a lot from the family and from your life broadly. So I just want to mention Brenda and the years of dedication that she's put in to supporting the various enterprises we've worked with – and how much I feel that in this moment.

I will say this institution is exceptional; it's very, very powerful, and we do great things, but we're also very delicate. And it's very important to handle the University with the care and sensitivity that are necessary to move it forward.

I will say that I have great confidence I'm passing the baton to someone that I know can do that. It means a lot to me. It's much easier to do that knowing that our University is going to be in such great hands. Again, great to have you do this. Thank you so much for coming to join us. I look forward to seeing all that you'll bring to the University of California – and Fiat Lux indeed.