State Audit Praises Level of Patient Care at UC Medical Centers

The California State Auditor today (Jan. 30) released the results of its probe into the finances, staffing and quality of patient care at the UCLA and UC San Francisco medical centers, noting that the level of patient care and satisfaction were among the highest in the nation.

State legislators requested the audit in June 2013 at the urging of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees Local 3299. The report made only one recommendation: that the University of California more clearly detail the extent and purposes of revenue transfers from its medical centers to its schools of medicine.

"These latest audit results demonstrate that the university is not only in compliance with all relevant regulations governing our medical centers' finances, staffing and quality of care, but often far exceeds them," said Dr. John Stobo, senior vice president for health sciences and services at UC's Office of the President.

Said Dwaine Duckett, vice president for human resources, "AFSCME called for this audit as a bargaining chip in labor negotiations and has cost California taxpayers hundreds of thousands of dollars. The results prove that the union's most serious allegations about unsafe staffing levels and patient safety at our medical centers are completely without merit."

UC has been in contract negotiations with AFSCME for more than a year. The union recently called for a strike authorization vote despite the university's comprehensive offer that is equal to or better than agreements other unions have signed with UC since October. Should AFSCME call for a strike, it would be the third time in nine months that its workers have walked off their jobs. The May and November 2013 strikes at UC medical centers have cost the university more than $30 million — money that would have advanced physician education and world-class research.

Because of the complexity of the UC system — 10 major campuses, world-class research facilities, five medical centers and a division of agriculture and natural resources — the university opens its books