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**CHANCELLORS
DIRECTOR—LAWRENCE BERKELEY NATIONAL LABORATORY**

Dear Colleagues:

The new *Policy on Health Care Vendor Relations* reinforces the University's commitment to the best interests of our patients. Research shows that certain health care vendor activities allowed under the Political Reform Act, such as the provision of gifts of nominal value, may affect provider behavior and give the appearance of favoritism. This policy supplements the provisions of the Political Reform Act and University Business and Finance Bulletin G-39 (the Conflict of Interest Policy), adding restrictions to vendor relationships in those circumstances where the potential drawbacks of the relationship outweigh the anticipated benefit.

The policy was developed by a workgroup composed of representatives of our health professions schools and chaired by Executive Director for Medical Services Rory Jaffe. This effort included a broad review and comment from all locations, notice to affected employees and employee organizations, and endorsement by the Academic Council.

Since this policy represents a significant change in our practice, a list of Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) to assist in campus implementation and interpretation of the policy will be issued soon. Also, this policy will be reviewed within two years, or earlier if appropriate. Campuses are expected to implement this policy by July 1, 2008.

Sincerely,

Robert C. Dynes

[Attachment](#)

cc: Members, President's Cabinet
Principal Officers of The Regents
General Counsel Robinson
Academic Council Chair Brown
Universitywide Policy Office