

1 [Urging independent review of Professor Ignacio Chapela's tenure hearing]

2

3 **Resolution urging review of University of California at Berkeley's procedures in**
4 **denying the tenure of Professor Ignacio Chapela in light of his exposure of illegal**
5 **dumping of GMO crops in Mexico by Monsanto Corporation.**

6

7 WHEREAS, It is the role of the University to promote critical thinking and the pursuit of
8 truth and excellence in the face of undue influence, internal politics and economic pressure
9 from pharmaceutical and biotechnological corporations; and

10 WHEREAS, We live in a society where our public University's are increasingly forced
11 to rely on outside funding in order to survive, thereby making them beholden to private and
12 corporate interests in order to get funding; and

13 WHEREAS, In the case of Professor Ignacio Chapela there are significant and
14 substantiated allegations, requiring further investigation, that the exposure of illegal dumping
15 of GMO crops in Mexico by Professor Chapela as well as Professor Chapela's criticisms of
16 corporate influence, affected the outcome of his tenure hearing and led to his dismissal from
17 the University; and

18 WHEREAS, Professor Chapela's tenure was supported and voted on overwhelmingly
19 by thirty-two out of thirty-three of his colleagues and fellow faculty members, and

20 WHEREAS, Professor Chapela's tenure was further recommended on multiple
21 occasions by the dean of his department and the dean of the College of Natural Resources;
22 and

23 WHEREAS, University Chancellor Robert Berdahl ignored these recommendations
24 and denied Professor Chapela's tenure based on a negative vote from the budget committee,
25 and

1 WHEREAS, The University had previously accepted 25 million dollars from biotech
2 giant Syngenta which had been criticized by Professor Chapela; and

3 WHEREAS, The current allegations of outside influence and politics send a chilling
4 message to all those scientists and professors who would exercise their free speech and
5 critical assessment regarding the extreme dangers involved in technological manipulation of
6 nature and its negative consequences; and

7 WHEREAS, The role of undue influence on the University in the area of environmental
8 protection, biotechnology policy and the need to protect social critics was at the center of the
9 California Legislature Hearings held in Sacramento on May 12, 2000; now, therefore be it

10 RESOLVED, The San Francisco Board of Supervisors urges the new Chancellor,
11 Chancellor Birgeneau, to review the determination of tenure in the case of Professor Chapela
12 with utmost urgency; and

13 FURTHER, That Chancellor Birgeneau investigate the politics and influences that led
14 to the previous determination and make his findings public as soon as possible.



City and County of San Francisco

City Hall
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place
San Francisco, CA 94102-4689

Tails
Resolution

File Number: 050029

Date Passed:

Resolution urging review of University of California at Berkeley's procedures in denying the tenure of Professor Ignacio Chapela in light of his exposure of illegal dumping of GMO crops in Mexico by Monsanto Corporation.

January 11, 2005 Board of Supervisors — ADOPTED

Ayes: 11 - Alioto-Pier, Ammiano, Daly, Dufty, Elsbernd, Ma, Maxwell, McGoldrick, Mirkarimi, Peskin, Sandoval

File No. 050029

I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was ADOPTED on January 11, 2005 by the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco.

Gloria L. Young
Clerk of the Board

Date Approved

Mayor Gavin Newsom

January 21, 2005

I hereby certify that the foregoing resolution, not being signed by the Mayor within the time limit as set forth in Section 3.103 of the Charter, became effective without his approval in accordance with the provision of said Section 3.103 of the Charter.

Clerk of the Board