

## **UUSS Policy\* for governance of the Betty Ch'maj Fund.**

The UUSS Board of Trustees at its meeting of March 22, 2007 voted (10 aye votes, one abstention) to transfer responsibility for the use and expenditure of the Ch'maj Fund to the Program Council. This action is effective immediately and will remain in effect until further notice.

### **BACKGROUND:**

Dr. Betty Ch'maj, recipient of the University of Michigan's first doctoral degree in American culture (1961), was a professor of humanities and American studies at California State University Sacramento from 1972 to 1996. She authored several books and articles, and has been credited with spearheading the introduction of women's issues in American culture studies. Dr. Ch'maj joined UUSS in 1976, and was an active member until her untimely death in a car accident in November 1997. Her heirs honored her expressed intent by donating approximately \$25,000 to UUSS to establish a lecture series in her name. Their wishes for the use of this Fund are documented in a letter sent by them to Jack Davidson, UUSS Business Manager and dated December 31, 1997.

### **POLICY:**

The Fund is to be used solely for UUSS activities in keeping with Betty Ch'maj children's wishes as noted in their letter. The Board interprets these wishes to include lectures/presentations on topics related to one or more of the following:

1. The changing nature, attitudes and values of the American character.
2. United States history, politics, religion and popular culture
3. Issues of race, class, gender and ethnicity in America.
4. The American experience: visions and aspirations.
5. International perspectives on America's global presence.

All activities which are funded from the Fund will be so identified in any publicity material or announcements.

The amount to be spent in any given UUSS fiscal year shall not exceed 5% of the value of the funds at the end of the previous year. Any amount needed in excess of the aforementioned amount must receive prior approval from the Board.

The UUSS Business Administrator will serve as fiscal custodian of the Fund. He/She will supply both the Program Council and the Board with timely reports on expenditures.

Any changes in the present investment arrangements require prior Board approval.

Through the Board's representative on the PC, the Program Council will keep the Board informed on all Fund use.

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\* Supersedes any previous policies regarding the disposition of this Fund.