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A UC regent, a critic of the board, resigns unexpectedly

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University of California Regent John Moores, who had previously expressed frustration that the governing board lacked independence and acted as a tool of UC President Robert Dynes' administration, unexpectedly resigned Monday.

In a terse, one-sentence letter, Moores said his resignation was effective immediately. He gave no reason and declined comment when reached by The Chronicle.

But last year, he ripped his fellow regents, saying they were "about as relevant as furniture when it comes to governing."

More recently, Moores expressed disappointment that the governing board turned down his resolution to ban UC faculty and staff from accepting research money from tobacco companies, which he blamed for "a billion deaths." In September, his colleagues voted 14-4 to reject his resolution.

Moores also has been a strong supporter of admission limits placed on UC by the voter-approved Proposition 209, which banned racial preferences. He was an outspoken critic of what he saw as efforts by the university to ease those standards.

His resignation, more than a year before his term was to end, was tendered to board Chairman Richard Blum.

Moores gave no reason, said UC spokesman Brad Hayward, adding, "It was out of the blue."

Moores is chairman of the San Diego Padres baseball club and the investment firm, JMI Services Inc. He lives in San Diego and was appointed to the board by Gov. Gray Davis in March 1999 to fill an unfinished term. In May 2002, he was appointed as chairman of the Board of Regents and served two years. His replacement will be nominated by the governor and will need confirmation from the state Senate.

Moores has been a generous supporter of the university, donating \$21 million to UC San Diego for a new cancer center and the Preuss School, a charter middle and high school on the UC San Diego campus charged with getting low-income students to college.