

Protest disrupts regents meeting

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Highlight: Ban of illegal immigrants denounced by students. Small group escorted out by security after a few minutes.

Body

ATHENS --- About a dozen students halted a state Board of **Regents meeting** for a few minutes Wednesday, **protesting** a policy that bans illegal immigrants from Georgia's top colleges, plus the use of a coal-fired boiler on the University of Georgia campus.

The ban, which went into place in fall 2011, prohibits illegal immigrants from attending colleges that had to turn away academically qualified students for the past two years. It applies to UGA, Georgia Tech, Georgia State, Georgia Health Sciences and Georgia College & State universities.

A few students also held signs demanding UGA shut down the coal-fired boiler on campus.

The college plans to replace it but has said it will take time. Students want administrators to commit to a deadline and work with experts and the UGA community to come up with a sustainable alternative, said senior Ian Karra, one of the protesters.

Security forced the students to leave within minutes.

UGA President Michael Adams told the board there's "never a shortage of free speech" at the college.

Before the **protest**, Adams was discussing how the university is expanding medical education and taking other steps to **meet** state needs.

The **regents** typically **meet** in Atlanta, but twice a year the board **meets** at a state college. UGA hosted the two-day **meeting**. The other **meeting** at a college took place in April at Georgia Southwestern State University in Americus.

The next **regents meeting** will take place on Nov. 13 in Atlanta. It will be the final **meeting** of the year unless pressing business should require a **meeting** in December.

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