

**THE REGENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA
MEETING AS A COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE**

April 15, 1998

The Regents of the University of California met on the above date in Leshar Library 1, Merced College, Merced

Present: Regents Atkinson, Bagley, Chandler, Davies, Hotchkis, Khachigian, Lee, Levin, Montoya, Nakashima, Ochoa, Parsky, Preuss, and Soderquist

In attendance: Regents-designate Espinoza and Willmon, Faculty Representative Dorr, Secretary Trivette, General Counsel Holst, Associate Secretary Shaw, Senior Vice President Kennedy, and Vice President Darling

The meeting convened at 9:45 a.m. with Chairman Khachigian presiding.

1. WELCOME

Chairman Khachigian welcomed everyone to the meeting. She thanked Merced College for hosting the Regents, noting that the College was celebrating its 35th anniversary, and introduced Mr. Ben Duran, President of Merced College. President Duran welcomed the Regents to Merced College. He noted that the University has had an office on the College's campus for about a year and he has been pleased to work with University staff involved in the UC Merced campus planning, especially on some collaborative projects between the College and the University.

Chairman Khachigian introduced Assemblyman Dennis Cardoza of Merced. Mr. Cardoza thanked the Regents for coming to Merced and President Atkinson for his leadership and stewardship regarding the UC Merced project. He stated that this campus is important for the entire Central Valley region and that he would continue to work in the Legislature to assure that the tenth campus would not create any suffering for the other nine, but would augment them. He expressed his appreciation to all the Regents, including former Regents Brophy, Gonzales, and Kessler who were in attendance at today's meeting, for their support and for sending Vice Provost Carol Tomlinson-Keasey to the UC Merced project. Mr. Cardoza observed that this project has the total support of the Merced community as it is important to the area, in both an educational and an economic sense. He asked for the Regents' help in passing the higher education bond measure out of the Legislature.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Regent Khachigian explained that this portion of the meeting was to give members of the public the opportunity to address University-related matters or items on the day's agenda. The following people addressed the Committee:

- A. Mr. Norman Rogers from Davis believed that the University of California wastes money in the construction of its buildings. He suggested that the University use tilt-up construction in the building of the new campus.
- B. Mr. Tim O'Neill, chair of the UC Merced Committee, thanked the Regents for their continued support of the new campus. He noted that the San Joaquin Valley is California's fastest growing and most culturally diverse region and the only major region not served by a UC campus. Children of the region attend UC campuses at less than half the statewide rate. He summarized the various efforts taking place in the community, such as those of the UC Merced Foundation, that the University can count on to provide private support for the campus.
- C. Mr. Christopher Stewart, CEO of the Merced County Economic Development Corporation, discussed the importance of the new campus to the economic well-being of Merced and the entire Central Valley, characterizing the University as the cornerstone of economic growth and prosperity for the area. He noted that Pacific Telesis had recently relocated to the area and part of its decision was based on the fact that a University campus would be there.

3. **BRIEFING ON ACADEMIC AND PHYSICAL PLANNING ISSUES**

Regent Parsky, Chairman of the Special Committee on the Tenth Campus, introduced President Atkinson, who noted that UC Merced will be the first new University campus in more than thirty years and the first major research university campus to be established in the twenty-first century. He described the goals of the next phase in the development of UC Merced, which include establishing working relationships with key Central Valley agencies and organizations, building fundraising support, and completing initial academic and physical planning for the new campus. A new organizational structure within the Office of the President, led by Vice Provost Tomlinson-Keasey, has been established. In her new role as Senior Advisor to the President for UC Merced, Ms. Tomlinson-Keasey will serve as the academic leader of planning and development and will oversee the addition of new educational services in the region.

Vice Provost Tomlinson-Keasey discussed the seven academic principles that would guide the planning of UC Merced:

- ! Excellent teaching, research and public service
- ! Strong graduate and undergraduate programs
- ! Building an educational network in the San Joaquin Valley
- ! Linking the campus technologically to the world

- ! Cooperating with UC campuses and laboratories, and with CSU, the community colleges and K-12
- ! Reflecting the uniqueness of the San Joaquin Valley
- ! Integrating the University and the community

Ms. Tomlinson-Keasey then discussed the academic programs that are being established in the San Joaquin Valley, noting that these efforts were being led by Mr. Joe Castro, Director of Academic Programs at the UC Center in Fresno. The first program is the Extension Program. A year ago, there were no University Extension programs in the San Joaquin Valley, and this spring there will be three from Berkeley, Riverside, and Davis. These programs will be offered at a variety of sites within the Valley. Another program that exists in the Valley is the joint doctoral program with CSU, Fresno. This program is expanding as new disciplines of study are introduced from various UC campuses. Another central part of the efforts of the UC Center is outreach to teachers in the area. While the number of college-bound students from the Valley has been increasing steadily since 1990, it is hoped to continue this trend and improve the percentage of students eligible and admitted to UC by providing information and programs to K-12 teachers. Some of these programs include the Regional Science Teacher Training Center at the UC Center in Fresno and the Medical Professions Academy for high school students sponsored by UCSF.

Another important aspect of planning for these programs in the Valley and for UC Merced as a campus that will serve the entire Valley is the development of a regional library that will be largely available via the Internet.

Ms. Trudy Heinecke, who leads the physical planning efforts for UC Merced, described the UC Merced site. It is currently part of 11,000 acres of cattle-grazing land known as the "University Community," approximately six miles northeast of the City of Merced. Much of the growth of Merced is predicted to be in the northern part of the City. One of the important physical planning issues is how to provide access to the campus from Highway 99 in a way that will not require all vehicle traffic to pass through downtown Merced. Under the leadership of the Merced County Association of Governments, a plan for additional highway exchanges on Highway 99 and a loop highway around the City has been developed. Federal funding is being sought for construction of the eastern portion of the road, known as the "Campus Parkway," the estimated cost of which is \$55 million.

Ms. Heinecke recalled that the UC Merced campus will be on 2,000 acres within the 7,000-acre Virginia Smith Trust. Income from the Trust is to be used to provide scholarships. Its trustees are the elected members of the Merced County Board of Education who have development responsibilities regarding the remaining 5,000 acres of the Trust. The other owners of the land within the "University Community" are the Cyril Smith Trust, which

owns 4,000 acres, and the County of Merced, which owns about 200 acres. The fact that the University Community has only two major landowners provides the University of California an unprecedented opportunity for collaborative planning and development with the surrounding community. One example of this collaboration might be the development of a research and development park on both University and community property.

At the time The Regents selected Lake Yosemite as the site of the tenth campus, landowners and the County indicated that they were willing to engage in a joint planning process. The County has planning jurisdiction and has taken steps to set the stage for joint planning. In 1995 after the site was selected, the County amended its general plan to designate the area for future urban development with the condition that a comprehensive plan be developed. The City of Merced updated its general plan in 1997 and included the agreement to participate in a joint planning effort. The City's sphere of influence was expanded to include the University Community area so that the City can provide the University with urban services such as water and sewage services. The third local agency involved in physical planning is the Merced Irrigation District.

The University has been meeting with these three agencies since last fall to define how the joint planning will proceed. It has been agreed first to complete a concept planning phase that will give a framework for specific planning that each group needs to do. Agreements that are made in this initial concept planning phase will provide the basis for future joint agreements among the parties covering such issues as financing for infrastructure, provision of utilities, and potential joint development agreements. A unique opportunity the University has in the joint planning effort is to define and pursue environmental mitigation for the entire 11,000-acre community, which will, in the long run, save time and money in the development of the campus. It is anticipated that the concept planning phase will be completed by the end of 1998.

As the concept planning phase is concluding, work will begin on the campus' Long Range Development Plan. This Plan will identify the precise boundaries of the campus. Another essential component will be a master plan for the infrastructure of the campus. Work on this plan will begin in the 1999-2000 budget year. The decision points for the Regents will be the fall of 1998 for the approval of the 1999-2000 budget, which will include provisions for planning the infrastructure and master plan; the fall of 1999 for the 2000-01 capital budget, which will include the first capital projects; and the fall of 2000 for the approval of the LRDP. It is important to maintain this schedule to be able to design the campus' first building project in 2000-01.

It is planned to have some buildings ready for use by the founding faculty and staff on a phased basis a year or more before the opening of the campus in 2005. The goal for the fall of 2005 is to have about 100 faculty in place, who will have been hired over a two- or three-year period. There are two factors that make this schedule different and longer than those for developing the San Diego and Irvine campuses. The first is the opportunity to

engage in the collaborative planning with the Smith Trust and local government agencies. The second factor is the additional planning and development approvals required since the 1970s as mandated by both federal and state laws. The University is required to have more information about the natural environment as it proceeds, to seriously consider alternative patterns of development, and to have formal and public review processes to focus on these environmental concerns.

Regent Bagley asked if Merced County was a “self-help” county in terms of transportation dollars. Bob Smith, director of county planning, responded that currently the County was not; however, there is a group called Vision 20-20, which is comprised of community, business, and government leaders who are working with the local governments to bring the issue of transportation sales tax before the voters, perhaps in the fall of 1998.

Regent Montoya expressed concern about how to avoid the problems some of the other UC campuses have experienced with undesirable development around their campuses, since the University will own only 2,000 of the 11,000 acres of the University Community. Ms. Heinecke responded that this is why the University is pursuing the joint planning efforts with the other land owners.

President Atkinson asked when the system of roadways for the campus will be defined. Ms. Heinecke stated that for the surrounding community the outline of the network of roadways will be done as part of the concept plan within the year. The locations of major entrances to the campus will need to be identified before the Long Range Development Plan can be done.

The Committee then adjourned for lunch.

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4. UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, MERCED SITE VISIT

The Regents toured the site of the UC Merced campus.

And then the Committee adjourned.

Attest:

Secretary

