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

January 14, 1999

The Regents of the University of California met on the above date at UCSF - Laurel Heights, San Francisco.

Present: Regents Atkinson, Connerly, Davies, Espinoza, Johnson, Khachigian, Kozberg, Leach, Lee, Miura, Montoya, Preuss, Sayles, and Willmon

In attendance: Regent-designate Vining, Faculty Representatives Coleman and Dorr, Secretary Trivette, General Counsel Holst, Assistant Treasurer Young representing Treasurer Small, Provost King, Senior Vice President Kennedy, Vice Presidents Broome, Darling, Hershman, and Hopper, Chancellors Berdahl, Bishop, Cicerone, Dynes, Greenwood, Orbach, Vanderhoef, and Yang, Laboratory Director Tarter, and Recording Secretary Bryan

The meeting convened at 8:50 a.m. with Chairman Davies presiding.

1.   **INTRODUCTION OF NOBEL LAUREATE ROBERT LAUGHLIN**

Laboratory Director Tarter introduced Professor Robert Laughlin of Stanford University, co-winner of this year's Nobel Prize in Physics. He noted that Mr. Laughlin did his undergraduate work at Berkeley, earned his Ph.D. at MIT, and subsequently participated at the highest levels of research in the country. He was at the Bell Telephone Laboratories of AT&T when it was the premier industrial research organization in the country. He spent five years at the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory as a staff member, and for the past fifteen years he has been predominantly with Stanford University, retaining some association with the Livermore laboratory.

Professor Laughlin reported that he had three messages to give to the Regents. The first was that he was grateful to the Berkeley faculty for his undergraduate education and for the inspiration to choose a career in physics. He believed that the milieu of physics on the Berkeley campus was unique in the world. Most good physicists have some connection with UC Berkeley, either having been there as undergraduate or post-doctorate students or having been trained by somebody who was. He believed that had the institution not existed, he would have chosen some other career direction.

Mr. Laughlin reported that he grew up in Visalia, a little town south of Fresno. He noted that recently the Governor has called for automatic admission to the University of California for the top four percent of classes from high schools in the state. He was concerned that had that approach been in effect when he was applying to college, his class ranking would have prevented his attending Berkeley. He did not achieve

academic prominence until he reached college, and he was grateful to the state's taxpayers for providing the opportunity that led to his outstanding university experience.

Mr. Laughlin's second point was that one experiment is worth a hundred theories. He noted that he was the only person to win a Nobel Prize for work done while on the payroll of a national laboratory. He doubted he would have done the work had he not been at the Livermore laboratory because the scientific system would likely have diverted his attention to other specialties.

Finally, Mr. Laughlin wished to explain why he works at Stanford and not at Cal. He reported that after his prize-winning work was published, he received many offers, including one from Berkeley. He decided against taking it because the University's funding was so unstable. Shortly following that decision, the University's budget suffered a significant shortfall. He emphasized that the lack of support for the University of California by the State government has a detrimental effect at the faculty level.

President Atkinson thanked Mr. Laughlin for his remarks, noting that he intended to refer to the points he had made when discussing the University's budget in Sacramento.

2.   **PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD**

Chairman Davies explained that the Board had been convened as a Committee of the Whole in order to permit members of the public an opportunity to address matters on the morning's agenda. There were no requests to speak.

The meeting adjourned at 9:05 a.m.

Attest:

Secretary