

The Regents of the University of California

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON UC MERCED

July 15, 1999

The Special Committee on UC Merced met on the above date at UCSF-Laurel Heights, San Francisco.

Members present: Regents Atkinson, Connerly, Davies, O. Johnson, Khachigian, Kozberg, Lee, and Parsky; Advisory members Pannor and Taylor

In attendance: Regents Bagley, Hopkinson, S. Johnson, Lansing, Montoya, Preuss, and Vining, Regent-designate Kohn, Faculty Representatives Coleman and Dorr, Secretary Trivette, General Counsel Holst, Assistant Treasurer Young, Provost King, Senior Vice President Kennedy, Vice Presidents Broome, Darling, Gomes, and Hershman, Chancellors Berdahl, Bishop, Carnesale, Dynes, Greenwood, Orbach, Vanderhoef, and Yang, Chancellor-designate Tomlinson-Keasey, and Recording Secretary Nietfeld

The meeting convened at 3:40 p.m. with Committee Chair Kozberg presiding.

UPDATE ON PLANNING FOR UC MERCED

The Committee was provided with the following update on planning for the Merced campus.

Academic Planning

Partnership Agreement with National Parks

On May 13, 1999, UC Merced entered a formal partnership for research, education, and outreach with Yosemite and Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks. The far-ranging agreement will open the door to collaboration in K-12 school outreach, undergraduate education, and research. UC Merced's educational and research activities will be strengthened by access to National Park expertise in the classroom, laboratory, and the field; National Park goals for research and education will be enhanced by the participation of UC Merced faculty and students. K-12 outreach activities have begun this summer. The parks and UC Merced education specialists have developed summer science courses for high school students in cooperation with school district representatives and teachers in Merced and Parlier. Both courses feature field research experiences in the Sierra national parks.

Academic Senate Task Force

In May the task force met with a representative of the UC Merced Student Planning Advisory Committee and with Physical Planning and Budget Director Heinecke to discuss site development issues, especially those that will affect the location and character of student and academic services. The task force also

discussed options for electronic management of faculty personnel records with Academic Technologies Planning and Coordination Director Orcutt. Task force Chair Spiess presented a progress report to the Universitywide Academic Assembly on May 27 and took part in the ensuing discussion of academic issues. These ranged from faculty recruiting policies and distance learning to the potential roles of professional schools and the need to assure strong humanities and arts programs in a campus whose preliminary development may emphasize the natural sciences, engineering, and social sciences.

In June, the task force met in Merced and toured the campus site. The principal agenda item was general education at UC Merced.

Research Initiatives

The Sierra Nevada Research Institute draft prospectus is nearing completion. Other planning groups will be completing their written advice for the chancellor on additional research initiatives that could distinguish UC Merced. Those groups are focusing on engineering and related disciplines, biotechnology, and the humanities, social sciences, and arts. The Academic Senate Task Force will review and comment on the research foci.

Student Planning Advisory Committee

The Student Planning Committee has refined estimates of UC Merced's student residential and commuting patterns and continues to advise on options for locating services that support students on and off campus.

Academic Programs

K-12 Teachers and Students

UC Merced has established many academic program initiatives designed to help prepare K-12 teachers and students in the San Joaquin Valley for the new campus. For K-12 teachers, UC Merced has worked with the Lawrence Hall of Science to establish Great Explorations in Math and Science (GEMS) Programs in Merced and Tulare Counties. The Merced program will serve teachers from Merced, Madera, and Mariposa Counties and will be based at the Challenger Learning Center at Castle Air Force Base. The Merced Educational Television Network will transmit workshops to thousands of additional teachers throughout the Valley. The Tulare program will serve teachers from Tulare and Kings Counties and will be based at Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Park. This program is one important outgrowth of the partnership with the parks. In addition, the Kern County GEMS Program will be expanded this fall to include teachers in Mono and Inyo Counties.

In the fall, UC Merced will sponsor some of the first pilot sites in the state for the UC College Prep Initiative. The College Prep Initiative aims to use technology to help expand access for high school students to advanced placement courses. Access to such courses will help increase the number of students

in the Valley who are competitively eligible for admission to UC and other higher education institutions. New on-line courses will be offered when the school year begins in Merced, Fresno, and Mariposa Counties.

Division of Professional Studies

The UC Merced Division of Professional Studies continues to expand its programming to individuals and corporations throughout the Valley. The provision of customized training for Valley corporations is a key mission of the Division, and new partnerships are being developed. One example is a new customized training program on business finance that is being offered to engineers and geologists at Texaco in Kern County.

Distributed Learning Centers

The development of UC Merced's Distributed Learning Centers in the San Joaquin Valley continues to proceed in positive ways. A new center in Modesto, located at the Stanislaus Agricultural Center, is expected to open this fall. The center will have state-of-the-art videoconferencing equipment that will enable UC Merced to sponsor academic programming originating from the other nine UC campuses. A center in Bakersfield is expected to open in spring 2000. The establishment of the centers in Modesto and Bakersfield, as well as the Merced Tri College Center, has been made possible by a special \$1.5 million State appropriation.

Technology Planning

CalREN2 Communications Backbone

UC Merced is helping to lead the effort to bring pervasive communications services to the Central Valley. An initial goal of technology planning is the creation of a permanent CalREN2 high-speed communications backbone through the Central Valley, with nodes in Merced and Fresno. A north-south backbone connecting the Bay Area and Los Angeles Area networks together is a key element in the CalREN2 network plan. CalREN2, the California Research and Education Network, currently provides Internet2-level campus connectivity for the nine UC campuses as well as three California State University campuses, Stanford University, Cal Tech, the University of Southern California, and the Jet Propulsion Laboratory.

A proposal for funding assistance to connect UC Merced and other UC research programs in the Valley to the CalREN2 backbone will be submitted to the National Science Foundation this July, under the sponsorship of CENIC, the not-for-profit Corporation for Education Network Initiatives in California that manages the CalREN2 network. UC Merced has obtained support for this proposal from the Division of Agricultural and Natural Resources and UCSF's tele-medicine program in Fresno. Interim network links connecting Oakland, Fresno, and Merced will be installed until the CalREN2 connectivity is in place.

UC Merced Web Site

A UC Merced web site is being planned which will serve several critical functions. First, it will be a comprehensive locus of current information on all UC Merced and related planning and programmatic activities. Second, it will become a major channel for communications with multiple constituencies and a vehicle for feedback from those constituencies. Finally, it will provide the geographically dispersed UC Merced team with an internal communications channel.

Communication Network

Plans are being developed for voice, data, and interactive video infrastructures in the Distributed Learning Centers. These centers will eventually be connected to one of the CalREN2 nodes in Merced or Fresno.

Technology Mediated Services

UC Merced is planning to have all of its faculty searches and hires conducted using an electronic format. In addition, all merit and promotion files will be prepared and reviewed in an electronic format. Conversations with the Academic Senate Task Force and with the Committee on Academic Personnel have begun to define issues that must be addressed.

Physical Planning

University Community Development Concept

The conceptual planning phase for the 10,300-acre University Community which includes the UC Merced campus site was completed with the publication of the *University Community Concept Report* in May 1999. The report encompasses the community vision, planning principles, and open space, land use, and transportation concepts that will serve as the foundation for the UC Merced campus Long Range Development Plan and the University Community Plan being prepared by Merced County as an amendment to the County General Plan. The development of the Concept Report was a collaborative effort undertaken by the University, the County of Merced, the Virginia Smith Trust and the Cyril Smith Trust, the City of Merced, and the Merced Irrigation District.

Collaborative Campus/Community Planning

The University and the County of Merced have extended their collaboration to engage in a number of joint technical studies and planning efforts which support the campus' Long Range Development Plan and the County's University Community Plan. Work now under way includes a series of surveys of special status plant and animal species and detailed delineation of wetlands for the entire 10,300-acre site. Another joint effort involves aerial photography, site surveys, and development of digitized topographic data and maps. Additional work on geotechnical and hydrological conditions will begin shortly. The University and County

are addressing demographic, economic, and market projections affecting development of the campus and community, as well as transportation planning assumptions and regional traffic and transportation modeling. A joint effort has also been undertaken to address habitat conservation planning and the environmentally related permitting process. A collaborative process is under way to design an integrated planning process for infrastructure, including water, wastewater, storm drainage, and related energy issues for the campus and the community. This effort involves the University, the County, the City of Merced, and the Merced Irrigation District.

Campus Planning

Both the Academic Senate Task Force and the Student Planning Advisory Committee have been involved in discussion of physical planning principles for the campus, focusing on location issues and the linkages between academic facilities, student services, and student life facilities, including on-campus housing and other auxiliary enterprise services. The relationship of the campus core to the adjacent town center of the University Community and the potential for shared-use campus and community facilities have also been explored.

University Advancement

Visit of Vice President Gore

“Ensuring Access to a Quality Education” was the theme of Vice President Gore’s recent visit to the San Joaquin Valley. During his visit to the Merced Tri College Center, the Vice President pledged his support of UC Merced. He also held a roundtable discussion, meeting with educators and administrators from UC Merced, CSU Fresno and CSU Stanislaus, community colleges, and high schools. During the discussion, Vice Provost Tomlinson-Keasey stressed that UC Merced will serve the entire Central Valley and increase accessibility to Valley students, establish a network using technology linked to the high-speed CalREN2 system, continue extensive collaboration with other institutions of higher education, remain a positive force in outreach to K-12, and have as one of its initial foci the Sierra Nevada Research Institute.

UC Merced Magazine

Published as an insert in the local *Merced Sun-Star* newspaper, the quarterly magazine provides updates on the tenth campus and related human-interest stories. It is distributed to the Board of Regents, University staff members, local, State, and federal government officials, and other interested parties.

Community Forum

An active participant in the community, UC Merced co-sponsored a countywide Community Forum. Titled *Strengthening and Building Our Communities*, the forum focused on ways in which individuals could

take an active role in their community. Workshop topics ranged from how local government functions to educational sessions on how to prepare for college.

Alumni

A Valleywide UC Alumni group has been gaining interest and momentum. With assistance from the Office of University and External Relations, the group will be formalizing its efforts in the coming months. Two key objectives will be to promote the welfare and development of the University and UC Merced and to support the ongoing outreach efforts for future students of the University.

Constituency Relations

UC Merced continues to expand efforts to develop long-term relationships with a diverse range of ethnic groups. Committee participation in organizations such as the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce helps broaden understanding of the cultural richness within the Valley. Significant work has also been done in educational outreach with Academic Programs and the Office of Relations with Schools.

Budget

The 1999-2000 State Budget, as approved by Governor Davis, continues the \$9.9 million annual appropriation to support UC Merced planning and development, and also includes a \$400,000 appropriation for the County of Merced to support its planning efforts for the University Community adjacent to the campus site.

California Postsecondary Education Commission

Chancellor-designate Tomlinson-Keasey recalled that in November 1998 UC submitted to CPEC the report *UC Merced: The Research University Enters the Twenty-First Century -- Needs Study for UC Merced*, which provided a range of information to address the CPEC guidelines for new campuses. UC Merced senior staff subsequently met with CPEC staff and provided additional information in response to staff questions. Ms. Tomlinson-Keasey then invited Mr. Guillermo Rodriguez, the chair of CPEC, to discuss the Commission's decision to approve the proposal to establish a tenth campus in Merced.

Mr. Rodriguez explained that CPEC had undertaken an analysis of the capacity of California higher education to meet the enrollment demand known as "Tidal Wave II." In its report *Opening the Central Valley*, the Commission examined statewide enrollment projections and compared them to the capacities of the eight existing general campuses. The study examined such issues as projected community college transfers and the University's outreach and student services programs. In its review of the tenth campus, CPEC was particularly concerned about the need for continued advocacy on behalf of students in the Central Valley to ensure that the tenth campus meets their needs. The Commission agrees with the University's overall enrollment projections, although CPEC found that the demand for the tenth campus,

particularly among freshmen, could be greater than what UC is currently projecting. CPEC has raised numerous concerns due to the lack of details in the proposal regarding physical planning, particularly with regard to cost and funding sources. The Commission has asked the University to report to CPEC in October on the five-year capital outlay program, changes which may be appropriate regarding enrollment projections, and a more detailed exposition of UC's outreach efforts in the Central Valley. Mr. Rodriguez noted that, these concerns notwithstanding, it is apparent that there is a need for a tenth campus in the Central Valley. The Commission believes that there is no alternative to building the Merced campus, and it is firmly committed to working with the Regents to encourage the people of the State of California to support the tenth campus.

Mr. Warren Fox, Director of CPEC, began his presentation by introducing Mr. Bill Storey, a staff member of the Commission who specializes in long-range planning and capital outlay in higher education in California. Mr. Fox noted that the Commission is charged with the responsibility for issues involving programs and long-range planning and will be working with the new campus as its academic programs are submitted to CPEC for review. The Commission has monitored the potential development of a new campus in the Central Valley for the past ten years and has recognized since 1995 that the University would be unable to meet enrollment demands in the period 2005 to 2007, thus requiring an additional campus. CPEC recognizes that this will be an expensive undertaking and hopes that the new campus will be innovative. The Commission acknowledges the effort that the University has made to forge partnerships with institutions in the Valley, particularly the community colleges, and to extend its influence through outreach and technology. The Commission is pleased that the new campus will have a scientific and technological orientation because it is critical to produce technological leadership and to preserve the irreplaceable ecology of the Central Valley.

Chancellor-designate Tomlinson-Keasey noted that Professor Emeritus Fred Spiess, the chair of the Academic Senate Task Force, was present. In the past few months, under his leadership the many aspects of the academic program for UC Merced have been more fully defined.

In response to a question from Regent Taylor regarding the status of the five-year capital budget for UC Merced to be presented to CPEC in October, Chancellor-designate Tomlinson-Keasey explained that the budgetary numbers are complex because funding involves a capital budget and an operating budget as well as funding for the surrounding University Community. The County will also need to address its infrastructure needs. The University administration is attempting to put together specific numbers to present to CPEC in October, but many of these figures will not be available until completion of an Environmental Impact Report and a Long Range Development Plan for UC Merced.

Vice President Hershman continued that the administration has been meeting with the Department of Finance to discuss issues such as the EIR. The University anticipates that it will request \$55 million for UC Merced in the 1999-2000 capital budget that will be presented to the Regents at the October meeting. It is expected that the release of funds over the coming year will be dependent upon the University providing details that would be part of the normal capital budget process.

Regent Kozberg asked what percentage of Valley students attend a campus of the California State University. Director Fox agreed to provide that information, noting that it is not high compared with other regions of the state. He pointed out that the University will need to find new, innovative ways to provide access to higher education, while CSU faces the pressure of an additional 85,000 students. The community college system will need to accommodate 340,000 additional students.

Regent S. Johnson drew the Committee's attention to the paragraph in the CPEC report on *Creating a Source of Funds*, which states that "...only \$55 million has been identified from Proposition IA that can be directed to the campus, and the University has not indicated to the Commission what other funding sources may be available." She was concerned that it was the responsibility of the University to identify further funding sources, given the fact that the State is well aware that the University is undertaking an enterprise on behalf of the State in the Central Valley. Regent Johnson suggested that it was incumbent upon the State to make adequate funds available to the University.

Vice President Hershman reported that the \$55 million would basically be used for infrastructure and for planning. He believed that a larger bond issue would be required to support all segments of education in the state and that the segments will need to convince the Legislature and the public to support another bond issue. Mr. Hershman added that another possibility for the UC Merced campus would be to encourage the Legislature to fund lease-revenue bonds.

The meeting adjourned at 4:05 p.m.

Attest:

Secretary