

The Regents of the University of California

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATIONAL POLICY

March 16, 2000

The Committee on Educational Policy met on the above date at UCSF-Laurel Heights, San Francisco.

Members present: Regents Atkinson, Lansing, Nakashima, Pannor, Sayles, and Taylor; Advisory members Kohn and Miura

In attendance: Regents Bagley, Lee, Montoya, Moores, and Preuss, Faculty Representatives Coleman and Cowan, Secretary Trivette, General Counsel Holst, Provost King, Senior Vice President Kennedy, Vice Presidents Broome, Darling, and Gomes, and Recording Secretary Nietfeld

The meeting convened at 1:20 p.m. with Committee Vice Chair Sayles presiding.

ACCOMMODATING TIDAL WAVE II: EXPANDED SUMMER INSTRUCTION

Provost King recalled that one way in which the University intends to accommodate the expected 63,000 new enrollments over the next decade is the expanded use of the summer session. The legislature has asked the University of California and the California State University to report by April 1 on the feasibility of year-round operations. The legislature recognizes that UC campuses already operate significant research and public service programs on a year-round basis, with much of their activity concentrated in the summer months. The legislature's interest stems primarily from a concern that there are insufficient capital resources to accommodate the large growth of enrollments projected for all segments of higher education in California. The expanded use of classrooms and class laboratories in the summer will allow the State to avoid some significant capital costs; UC and CSU have been asked to analyze that potential.

Provost King reported that the University has a significant summer enrollment, with 42,000 UC students taking part in the summer session, or 27 percent of the overall student body. These statistics provide evidence that UC students would be interested in using the summer to assist in the completion of their education.

Vice President Hershman discussed funding issues relating to year-round operations, noting that at present the State does not provide support for summer enrollment. If the State were to fund summer enrollment at the marginal cost of instruction, the University has calculated that the cost would amount to \$54 million. This funding would equalize fees throughout the year, provide student financial aid, and provide for faculty and staff. Mr. Hershman reported strong support from the Governor and the legislature for expansion of summer sessions, which would be phased in over the next three to four years.

Regent-designate Miura observed that the Berkeley campus operates on a semester system and asked how the campus would respond. Provost King explained that the Berkeley campus is in the process of designing an appropriate model which could involve intensive courses rather than a full 15-week quarter. The Office of the President intends to provide the campuses with flexibility with regard to course work.

Regent Pannor raised the issue of increasing faculty teaching loads in connection with the proposed move to year-round operations. Provost King stated that the University's teaching loads have not been found to be lower than the Comparison 8 institutions. The general intention will be to provide the same quality of instruction and curriculum in the summer as that which is provided during the rest of the year. Faculty members will continue to teach for three quarters, and an effort will be made to stagger the teaching load in order to have faculty who are able to teach during the summer quarter. Emphasis will be placed on courses which tend to be oversubscribed during the regular year.

Faculty Representative Coleman commented that faculty teaching loads at the University of California are essentially within the national norm for universities. The teaching load of a professor of physics at the Davis campus is comparable to that of a professor of physics at Harvard University, the University of Michigan, or the University of Minnesota. It is rare for a faculty member to teach fewer classes than the accepted norm.

Regent Pannor asked whether the University would need to re-evaluate teaching loads in light of projected enrollment growth. Professor Coleman pointed out that if the University were to respond to this pressure by increasing faculty teaching loads, the real result would be to increase the student-faculty ratio, which is already high.

In response to a question from Regent Montoya concerning the size of the enrollment and the mix of students envisioned for the summer quarter, Provost King anticipated that the summer quarter would be greatly expanded from its present size. In addition, it is anticipated that the majority of students in attendance will be UC students, although not necessarily at their home campus. This new system will force the University to re-examine its policy of admitting anyone who wishes to attend during the summer. The administration is considering the possibility of designing the summer quarter to serve as a sophomore summer modeled after a program at Dartmouth as well as offering courses which would allow students to graduate without having to enroll in the fall.

With respect to timing, Vice President Hershman noted that the intention is to have the issue of year-round operations resolved this spring. The University is hopeful that the Governor will include funding for the summer session in his May revision of the budget.

(For speaker's comments, see the minutes of the March 16, 2000 Committee of the Whole.)

The meeting adjourned at 1:40 p.m.

Attest:

Secretary