

The Regents of the University of California

NATIONAL LABORATORIES SUBCOMMITTEE

March 15, 2017

The National Laboratories Subcommittee met on the above date at UCSF–Mission Bay Conference Center, San Francisco.

Members present: Regents Napolitano, Pattiz, and Schroeder; Advisory members Chalfant and Mancina; Chancellors Khosla and Yang

In attendance: Regents Brody, Lozano, Newsom, and Ortiz Oakley, Regent-designate Monge, Secretary and Chief of Staff Shaw, Senior Vice President Henderson, Vice Presidents Brown and Budil, Director McMillan, Deputy General Counsel Friedlander, and Recording Secretary McCarthy

The meeting convened at 12:00 p.m. with Subcommittee Chair Pattiz presiding.

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the minutes of the meeting of January 25, 2017 were approved.

2. UPDATE ON THE NATIONAL LABORATORIES AND PRESENTATION ON THE STATE OF THE LOS ALAMOS NATIONAL LABORATORY

[Background material was provided to Regents in advance of the meeting, and a copy is on file in the Office of the Secretary and Chief of Staff.]

Subcommittee Chair Pattiz said that Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) Director McMillan would report on the state of that Laboratory. His report would be timely in that there was a high likelihood that the contract for management of LANL would be rebid; the current contract runs out in 2018. There had not yet been guidance from the new administration in Washington, D.C.

Vice President Budil introduced Mr. McMillan, who had been Director of LANL for almost seven years and had a 34-year career in the National Laboratory community. Mr. McMillan was a member of the original team that won the Los Alamos National Security LLC (LANS) contract at LANL.

Mr. McMillan reported that LANL had a good year in 2016, demonstrated by its greatly improved performance evaluation scores from the Department of Energy (DOE). Many areas the Laboratory had been working on for years came to fruition in 2016. He expressed pride in the fact that the Laboratory's accomplishments had been recognized by the DOE and remarked on the crucial contributions of the University.

Mr. McMillan said LANL had more than 500 retirements the prior year, as had been projected as the “baby boomers,” persons born during the demographic post-World War II “baby boom,” reached retirement age. As a result of those retirements and budget increases in the past year, LANL has had a vigorous year of hiring in all areas. In fiscal year 2016, LANL hired more than 1,000 employees. Mr. McMillan affirmed his focus on increasing diversity in LANL’s hiring. The Laboratory had studied its pay equity, including not only salary, but also research opportunities for scientists and access to facilities. In the few places where small divergences were found, they are being addressed. The diversity of LANL’s pool of 350 postdoctoral scholars is important to its pipeline for hiring. LANL pays great attention to the quality of its scientists. Mr. McMillan cited awards won by LANL scientists and affirmed that LANL benefits greatly from the quality of scientists it obtains through its connection with the UC system.

Another important area of interaction with UC is in collaborative research. Since 2008, UC had invested more than \$50 million of its fee income in collaborative research projects involving LANL. Such research benefits both UC and LANL, and results in extremely high-quality scientific research. In 2017, collaborative research would be in areas such as high energy density science and mesoscale materials science. UC also supports graduate students through LANL in-residence fellowships that provide graduate students access to LANL’s research facilities. UC provides unique highly valued technical oversight, which helped the Laboratory embark on a strategy for a robust LANL-based accelerator.

Regent Schroeder asked how many UC alumni work at LANL and what percentage of LANL’s workforce they represent. Mr. McMillan said he would provide that information.

The meeting adjourned at 12:35 p.m.

Attest:

Secretary and Chief of Staff