TO MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE ON LONG RANGE PLANNING:

DISCUSSION ITEM

For Meeting of February 4, 2009

ANNUAL ACCOUNTABILITY SUB-REPORT ON THE RESEARCH ENTERPRISE

The presentation by Vice President Beckwith initiates a series that the Committee will invite in order to:

• review accountability sub-reports, each dealing in detail with key areas of the University’s enterprise;
• engage in substantive discussion of some of the strategic choices that need to be made for the University’s future in those areas;
• inform the Board’s deliberations about important policy and budget questions; and,
• achieve a richer understanding of the nature of the University’s federal system.

Collectively, these presentations will also flesh out and then provide oversight of a comprehensive accountability framework for the University and lay the groundwork for future, bottom-up, long-range planning the Committee may engage in after the Board hears directly from our Chancellors about the campuses’ strategic plans.

Vice President Beckwith’s presentation is the first in a series, all of which will, with respect to the subject at hand:

• describe the current state – how the University compares nationally and internationally;
• identify important trends that the University needs to pay attention to, and how those trends may impact its future; and,
• present alternative goals that the University might consider setting for itself for the next 5 years, including the issues, trade-offs, opportunities and challenges inherent in pursuing those goals.

In particular, the presentation about the research enterprise will explicitly examine how UC research can be described and assessed. In this regard, it will contribute to our ongoing accountability efforts, anticipating the development of an accountability sub-report on research that may be presented annually to the Board. The presentation may also touch on:

• the drivers of our research quality and its impact on California;

1 Of interest to Committee on Educational Policy
• the ecology and economics of the research and the challenges inherent in sustaining it into the next decade;
• how the University assesses research quality, contributing to the ongoing accountability efforts; and,
• a few specific opportunities and challenges facing UC over the next decade.