

The Regents of the University of California

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON UC MERCED

July 16, 1998

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

Members present: Regents Atkinson, Chandler, Connerly, Davies, Khachigian, Lee, Nakashima, and Parsky; Advisory members Espinoza, Willmon, and Weiss

In attendance: Regents Bagley, Gould, Hotchkis, Johnson, Kozberg, Miura, Montoya, Ochoa, Preuss, and Sayles, Regents-designate Taylor and Vining, Faculty Representative Dorr, Secretary Trivette, General Counsel Holst, Provost King, Senior Vice President Kennedy, Vice Presidents Broome, Darling, Gomes, Gurtner, Hershman, and Hopper, Chancellors Carnesale, Cicerone, Dynes, Greenwood, Vanderhoef, and Yang; Vice Chancellor Bainton representing Chancellor Bishop, and Recording Secretary Bryan

The meeting convened at 12:08 p.m. with Committee Chair Parsky presiding.

STATUS REPORT ON PLANNING FOR UC MERCED

It was recalled that a status report on planning and programs for UC Merced will be made to the Special Committee approximately quarterly. The current report summarizes significant developments that have occurred since the Regents visited Merced and the campus site on April 14-15.

Academic Planning

- Establishing a Distinctive Research Identity

UC Merced staff are capitalizing on existing UC networks and resources as a basis for establishing a strong research character that will serve as a magnet in attracting faculty to UC Merced. Multicampus Research Units (MRUs) and related research centers represent a key resource to accomplish this goal. The faculty members in these MRUs engage in interdisciplinary research; many of them focus on research issues that impinge on the San Joaquin Valley.

Sierra Nevada Resource Management. The first research initiative focuses on the Sierra Nevada and on natural resource science, management, and policy issues that arise from the interdependence of the Sierra Nevada and the San Joaquin Valley. Initial meetings to consider this issue included faculty and staff from the Institute for

Transportation Studies, the Centers for Wildlands and Water Resources, the White Mountain Research Station, the Natural Reserve System, the Institute for Geophysics and Planetary Physics, and the National Center for Ecological Analysis and Synthesis.

Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory. A second potential UC resource is the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (LLNL). Conversations with LLNL staff have been initiated with a view toward establishing an association between LLNL and UC Merced in support of advanced science education and research. Areas under exploration include chemical and material sciences and technologies, energy, manufacturing and transportation technologies, mechanical and electronic engineering, environmental programs, remote sensing, physics and space technology, and biology and biotechnology.

Research Series. A third initiative to establish UC Merced's presence as a research resource will be a pilot outreach program to include speaker series, workshops, symposia, and other interactions designed to bring the results of research to Valley groups. Two MRUs will offer the first pilots. UC MEXUS will arrange faculty presentations on topics such as "Agriculture and Change in Rural California," "The San Joaquin Valley's Mexican Sister Communities," and "Social Characteristics of the New Agricultural Economy." A UC Humanities Research Institute pilot will include faculty presentations targeted to K-12 teachers and administrators on "Cultures of the Americas" and to museum staff and visitors on "Microcosms: Objects of Knowledge in Museums."

- Assessing Needs of Prospective Students

UC Merced will serve students from the San Joaquin Valley, both commuters and residential students, as well as students from other parts of California. Especially at the graduate level, students will also come from around the country and the world. A Student Planning Advisory Committee, with representatives from existing campuses, has begun meeting to create an analytical basis for assessing prospective UC Merced students and their needs for housing, employment, recreation, and other services. Their deliberations are concentrated on issues that will affect the opening of the campus, but they are also presenting ideas that address longer-term planning issues.

An important element of the committee's work will be a series of focus group discussions this fall and winter with groups of students from the San Joaquin Valley, the Bay Area, northern California, and Los Angeles County. San Joaquin Valley parents will also be invited to participate in focus groups. In addition, the committee is planning a teleconference series with experts on how students make choices about college and what current research discloses about effective student learning.

Academic Programs

The Office of UC Merced - Academic Programs has two major functions: to consolidate into one location in Fresno many existing UC academic, research, and outreach programs and to develop new academic programs throughout the region which lay the groundwork for UC Merced. The office is housed at the UC Center in Fresno.

- Extension Courses and Certificate Programs

With the establishment of the new UC Center in Fresno, four campuses now offer extension courses and certificate programs in the San Joaquin Valley. These courses have been relatively well attended and, in some cases, have exceeded the enrollment level at their home campus.

- Degree Programs

The Office of Academic Programs has worked closely with the other nine campuses in developing new distance degree programs in Fresno. Many new degree programs are in the discussion stages. Those that hold the most promise in the immediate future include a masters degree in computer science by UC Santa Barbara; a joint baccalaureate degree in environmental studies between UC Riverside and CSU Fresno; a joint doctorate in criminal justice between UC Davis and CSU Fresno; and a joint masters or doctoral degree in public health between UC campuses and CSU Fresno. Most of the instruction for these distance degree programs will be provided at the UC Center in Fresno.

- Research Programs

In addition to collaborating on the research series described above, the Office of Academic Programs is supporting a pilot study this summer by the UC-CSU Research Consortium on Children of the Central Valley that profiles a variety of indicators of well-being for children of the region. The study will provide important information to the public and likely inspire a larger study funded by a private foundation.

- K-12 Collaborative Programs

One important goal of the office is to help increase the number of students in the Valley who attend college. This goal is being addressed through several new initiatives in Fresno, Merced, and Bakersfield. For example, this fall new school partnerships are being established at Hoover High School (Fresno) and Parlier High School and their respective middle and elementary feeder schools. In addition, the Lawrence Hall of Science is establishing a new Great Explorations in Math and Science Program (GEMS) in Bakersfield. The program, which provides advanced science training to K-12 teachers, will complement an already successful GEMS Program at the UC Center in Fresno. Finally, the Office of Academic Programs is partnering with the Fresno Unified School District's Science Teacher Training Program to expand its unique training programs to teachers in Merced County and throughout the Valley.

- Developing the UC Merced Educational Network

By 1999, physical facilities will be in place to provide extension and degree programs in Fresno (UC Center), Merced (Tri-College Café at Merced College), and Modesto (Stanislaus Agricultural Center). State-of-the-art classroom space and videoconference equipment will be included. In Fresno and Merced, computer laboratories will enable UC to provide web-based instruction and advanced technology training. Additional centers in Bakersfield, Stockton, and Visalia are planned.

Physical Planning

Representatives of the six organizations involved in preparing a development concept for the 11,000-acre University Community have been meeting bi-weekly in Merced since late April. The organizations involved in this process are the University, the County of Merced, the Virginia Smith Trust, the Cyril Smith Trust, the City of Merced, and the Merced Irrigation District.

The first phase of the work program for this group includes developing a common vision for development and undertaking technical site studies to establish physical opportunities and constraints. These initial technical studies include wetlands and uplands biology, slopes and watershed analysis, and hydrology and drainage studies. Various panels of experienced planners and developers are being assembled to brief the planning group on issues related to habitat conservation, urban planning and design, regional economic development, and large-scale land development. A major public event to solicit community input and ideas about development of the University Community will be held in Merced on September 12.

By late October, it is anticipated that two to three alternative concepts for development of the area will be formulated. These concepts will be evaluated based on criteria related to financial feasibility, infrastructure requirements, environmental issues, and alignment with objectives outlined in the vision for the new community. By early 1999, it is anticipated that the County will undertake a formal process to revise its General Plan to reflect the concept which is selected. At the same time, the University will initiate work on a Long Range Development Plan for UC Merced which also will be based on the principles previously developed as part of the concept for a new University Community.

Funding

- State Budget Support

The State Budget for 1998-99 under consideration by the Legislature includes a total \$9.9 million in permanent operating budget support for UC Merced, which is an increase of \$5 million over the level of funding provided in 1997-98. These funds will be used to support the various academic and physical planning activities under way, as well as significant efforts to develop UC degree programs in the San Joaquin Valley prior to the time that the Merced campus is targeted to open in 2005. This funding also supports collaborative efforts with K-12 districts to improve student eligibility for UC,

expansion of K-12 teacher training programs in mathematics and science in the San Joaquin Valley, and development of collaborative instructional facilities with community colleges and California State University campuses.

- Federal Funding for Campus Parkway

On June 9, 1998, President Clinton signed the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century, which provides funding of \$11 million for the Campus Parkway in Merced, a new north-south expressway of approximately 10 miles that will connect State Highway 99 with the new University Community in the vicinity of Lake Yosemite. The Campus Parkway will be located east of the developed portion of the City of Merced. The County has initiated specific route alignment studies for this new road, with a preferred route to be identified in the next six months, followed by required environmental reviews. The total cost of this project is estimated to be in the range of \$22 million to \$25 million.

Carol Tomlinson-Keasey, Vice Provost for Academic Initiatives and Senior Associate to the President for UC Merced, commented on the report. Her comments focused on activities that bring together the technology that will allow for the development of a network campus and the cooperative efforts with other educational institutions that reflect the community involvement with the Merced campus project.

In response to a question from Regent Khachigian, Ms. Tomlinson-Keasey explained that regional concerns of national importance, such as the degradation of the environment, will be a key ingredient of the academic plan for the Merced campus. Regent Chandler asked whether Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory has become involved in forming the academic plan. Ms. Tomlinson-Keasey stated that she was looking forward to developing a meaningful relationship with laboratory personnel, particularly with a view toward attracting funds from the scientific and engineering segments of industry.

Regent Johnson emphasized that the Regents must remember that funding has not yet been secured for the tenth campus. She believed that, until funding is assured, no firm date should be projected for having the new campus up and running. She believed also that funding for the existing campuses should be a priority.

Regent Parsky asked about the relationship between the funding needs for current campuses and for the new campus. Ms. Tomlinson-Keasey responded that the State has provided \$20 million separate from the 1998 bond issue for the tenth campus. She believed that existing campuses will not suffer financially as a result of tenth campus planning. Vice President Hershman emphasized that there is a \$10 million permanent budget augmentation which is viewed as the extra operating cost for a tenth campus. The Governor has made commitments also to fund enrollment for the new campus.

Regent Parsky wished to make clear the fact that money available for the tenth campus would not be available for use on other campuses. Regent Lee suggested forming a "tiger team" to

try to find ways of assuring abundant funding for the central valley campus. Ms. Tomlinson-Keasey supported his suggestion. Regent Chandler mentioned the federal government's role in building the roads, which will help alleviate some of the infrastructure expenses. Regent Kozberg commented that CSU has taken over the infrastructure of existing opportunities, including the developmental center in Camarillo and a military facility in Monterey. She believed that their experience should be examined to discover whether some similar opportunities exist for the tenth campus.

Regent Espinoza was interested in assessing the needs of prospective students and wanted to know more about the efforts of the Student Planning Advisory Committee in doing that. He wondered whether students are participating in the process. Ms. Tomlinson-Keasey explained that there is one student on the committee and that focus groups will speak with a variety of students in the valley in order to address questions such as how residential and commuter students can be meshed and how the isolated campus can be made attractive to students. She believed that one way is to take advantage of the recreational activities afforded by its proximity to the Sierras. The committee has met three times. She expected to report in the near future on the conclusions of its members.

Regent Nakashima noted that the University Community Concept Planning Core Group, of which the University has two members, has met at various times. He wondered whether the campus planning will be limited to the 2,000-acre site. Ms. Tomlinson-Keasey stated that the entire 11,000-acre parcel is being viewed as a whole, so that planning for the University lands will not be done separately from the planning for the adjacent trust lands. Concepts that all three participants will follow need to be put into place before each segment develops its individual concept. Regent Nakashima asked whether any professionals have been engaged with reference to the overall planning. Ms. Tomlinson-Keasey responded that the core planning group includes members with experience in urban, state, and county planning. Mr. Nakashima asked for a topographic map of the site to be provided to the Regents.

Regent Miura asked how the opening goal of 2005 had been set. Ms. Tomlinson-Keasey was uncertain of the answer. President Atkinson indicated he would research the question and provide an answer to the Regents.

Chairman Davies noted that, while the Regents have reason to be circumspect about the details of the planning process, the Board continues strongly to support the development of the Merced campus.

The meeting adjourned at 12:40 p.m.

Attest:

UC MERCED

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July 16, 1998

Secretary