

The Regents of the University of California

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON UC MERCED

July 19, 2000

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

Members present: Regents Atkinson, Bustamante, Connerly, Davies, O. Johnson, S. Johnson, Kozberg, Lee, Miura, and Nakashima; Advisory members Cowan, Fong, and Morrison

In attendance: Regents Bagley, Hopkinson, Khachigian, Kohn, Montoya, Moores, Parsky, and Sayles, Regent-designate Seymour, Faculty Representative Coleman, Secretary Trivette, General Counsel Holst, Assistant Treasurer Young representing Treasurer Small, Provost King, Senior Vice President Kennedy, Vice Presidents Drake, Gurtner, Hershman, and Saragoza, Chancellors Cicerone, Dynes, Greenwood, Orbach, Tomlinson-Keasey, and Vanderhoef, Vice Chancellor Bainton representing Chancellor Bishop, and Recording Secretary Nietfeld

The meeting convened at 12:00 noon with Special Committee Chair Kozberg presiding.

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the minutes of the meeting of January 20, 2000 were approved.

2. UPDATE ON PLANNING FOR UC MERCED

Recruitment of Academic Leadership

The Committee was informed that the appointment of Roderic B. Park as Senior Associate to the Chancellor for Academic Development had moved recruitment of UC Merced's academic leadership into high gear. The search for the founding Director of the Sierra Nevada Research Institute is under way. Notices have been placed for the positions of Executive Vice Chancellor and Provost, who will be the chief academic officer for the campus; the Vice Chancellor for Administration; and for the founding deans of the Divisions of Engineering, Natural Sciences, and Social Sciences/Humanities/Arts. Senior faculty and administrators from other UC campuses have joined search committees for these positions. The goal is to have the provost and deans located at UC Merced by July 2001. The Vice Chancellor for Administration and the Vice Chancellor for Physical Planning will be joining the campus leadership team as soon as possible. Recruitments for a Dean of Student Services and a University Librarian have been initiated.

Preparing for Students

The student planning committee will complete its work early this fall and will be making recommendations on the best options for supporting students and creating an exciting campus atmosphere for students. UC Merced has the chance to improve student success by fully integrating student support services with the academic enterprise. The campus has two goals in serving undergraduate students: to expand UC's ability to accommodate eligible California high school graduates and to improve access to a UC education for students living in the San Joaquin Valley. To help meet the latter goal, Chancellor Tomlinson-Keasey and California State University Fresno President Welty have organized a Central Valley higher education consortium consisting of representatives of UC Merced, the three CSU campuses in the Central Valley, and the twelve community colleges. The member institutions are considering a dual admissions program as one of many potential avenues to facilitate transfer.

Library Planning

A focus group of University Librarians and other experienced library staff has outlined for UC Merced planners ways in which libraries are changing. Libraries continue to be key academic centers for students, providing access not only to traditional collections but also to advanced computing. Evolving librarian roles include helping students navigate and evaluate the tremendous information resources now available on the Internet. The focus group supported UC Merced's plan to integrate the University Librarian into the Executive Vice Chancellor and Provost's academic planning team. This will allow coordination of all library resource development with planning for degree programs.

Academic Programs

UC Merced is continuing to expand its academic programs to serve Central Valley educational needs in advance of the campus site opening in Merced. The programs have three goals: to provide programs for teachers and K-12 students that will prepare a large number of students for the University of California, to expand educational opportunities for professionals in the valley, and to offer current and prospective UC students from the Valley other course options.

Summer Sessions

UC Merced has launched its first summer session academic courses. In collaboration with UC Davis, undergraduate courses are being offered through the UC Center in Fresno. Students who enroll will receive academic credit through UC Davis that is transferable to any campus in the system. UC Merced will expand both the number and variety of courses in future years. In 2001, summer session courses are planned for Modesto, Bakersfield, and the Tri-College Center in Merced.

Division of Professional Studies

The UC Merced Division of Professional Studies continues to expand its presence in the region and to serve a greater number of professional needs. In April, the division held its inaugural Women=s Leadership in Agriculture Conference, which drew approximately one hundred women involved in agriculture from throughout the region and the state. This summer the division is sponsoring two major events. The first is a summer program, co-sponsored by Chevron, for disadvantaged youth in Fresno County. The second major summer program is the inaugural San Joaquin School Leadership Institute, which will be held from July 31 to August 4. The institute will provide principals and assistant principals from K-12 schools throughout the Valley with an opportunity to expand their leadership skills in dealing with contemporary educational challenges.

K-12 Teachers and Students

UC Merced is providing many high-quality professional development programs for K-12 teachers to enhance their skills and enable them to teach advanced courses for students. The Great Explorations in Math and Science Program continues to provide valuable new skills to teachers in Merced, Fresno, Tulare, Kern, Mariposa, Kings, Mono, and Inyo Counties. A new program in Stanislaus County will open in fall 2000. UC Merced is also a partner with the Central Valley Science Project in a summer institute at the UC Center in Fresno that will provide new teaching strategies for middle school science teachers who work with large numbers of English language learners. UC Merced is also working on a proposal for a new California Writing Project site to complement its extensive programming now in place to support professional development of Valley science and mathematics teachers.

Yosemite Institute

In May, UC Merced sent 60 seventh- and eighth-grade students from local schools to participate in the Yosemite Institute=s four-day hands-on math and science program. The institute=s Residential Field Science Program is designed to challenge students intellectually, personally, and physically. Learning is facilitated by teachers who lead students in explorations, investigations, discussions, and reflection. The majority of the students sent to the Yosemite Institute by UC Merced are students who have no experience with the National Parks and would not otherwise have the opportunity to visit them.

Budget Planning

When Governor Davis suggested 2004 as the opening date for UC Merced, he invited the University to submit projections of costs in order to accomplish this goal. In response, a long-range budget plan was prepared which showed that additional operational funds were needed to accelerate planning and implementation of core academic, administrative, and

student services beginning in 2000-01. Funds needed for the 2001 to 2005 budget years will support many one-time needs, such as faculty recruitment, beginning a library collection, and establishing the technological base for the campus. To facilitate the construction of the first two buildings on the campus, funds were accelerated in the recently approved State budget for working drawings in the amount of \$4.7 million.

Information and Instructional Technologies

The North-South CalREN-2 communications link to Merced and Fresno will soon be completed. In the Merced area, connection of the Engineering Building at Castle AFB to the Merced CalREN-2 node is contemplated. Timing would depend on the completion of building renovations.

A Request for Proposals for the installation and operation of interactive instruction technologies will be awarded this month. The RFP includes the proposed distributed learning center in Modesto, the Tri-College Center in Merced, and two interactive classrooms in the UC Center in Fresno. The technical specifications for the three sites have been designed to originate as well as receive online courses and to receive courses originating from other UC campuses. These technologies will also enable videoconference business meetings between Merced and Fresno. The implementation will occur during the summer, in time to support online courses in the second summer semester.

Environmental Impact Report

URS Greiner Woodward Clyde of Oakland has been selected as the firm to prepare the Environmental Impact Report for the campus= Long Range Development Plan (LRDP). The firm is already familiar with the Merced area as it is under contract to Merced County for preparation of the campus parkway EIR. The EIR process will commence with the issuance of a ANotice of Preparation.@ This will be followed by a public meeting or meetings referred to as AScoping Sessions,@ where the public can obtain more information about the project which will be the subject of the EIR.

Master Plan

The master plan process will include preparation of a Long Range Development Plan for the campus as well as preparation of guidelines for urban design, landscape, and open space, particularly focused on the first phase of development. The LRDP and accompanying guidelines will be prepared in close collaboration with the EIR to ensure that the campus plan takes into account environmental issues and is, to the maximum extent possible, Aself-mitigating@ by incorporating policies within the plan which respond to environmental issues. Skidmore Owings & Merrill of San Francisco has been selected to prepare the LRDP and related documents.

Off Campus Facilities

Progress has been made in identifying locations and finalizing arrangements for distributed learning facilities and for space in the Merced area for use prior to the campus site being available. The Tri-College distributed learning center at Merced College is fully operational. Renovations at the Fresno Center have been completed, and UC Merced continues to use a portion of the building for its programs. Distributed learning activities are expected to commence in Bakersfield in August in interim space provided by the Kern County Board of Education. UC Merced is working with the board to finalize arrangements to occupy a portion of a building being completed by the board in spring 2001.

Activities related to facilities in the Merced area are also moving forward. The renovations of the Castle Engineering Building, the lease of which was approved by The Regents at the May 2000 meeting, are under way. Initial occupancy by the UC Merced administrative staff is expected prior to the end of this year. The founding deans of the Divisions of Engineering, Natural Sciences, and Social/Sciences/Humanities/Arts, as well as the Director of the Sierra Nevada Research Institute, will be located at Castle. The founding faculty who join the staff prior to the opening of the campus will be housed in the building=s 140 offices. UC Merced is also in discussion with the Merced Redevelopment Agency to lease space in downtown Merced to be renovated by the agency. Once the campus is opened, this space will continue to be used by UC Merced for outreach, professional studies, and advancement purposes.

Environmental Planning

The Lake Yosemite site was selected by The Regents in 1995 following a lengthy site selection process. In analyzing the site, the executive staff to the Site Selection Task Force found that while the campus site has relatively few wetland resources, development surrounding the campus could be substantially constrained by extensive wetlands resources. In recognition of the need for a coordinated approach to protecting the region=s ecologically significant resources, open space, and agricultural lands, and for compliance with various federal and State environmental laws, UC Merced and the County of Merced adopted a Joint Statement on October 4, 1999. The purpose of the statement was to initiate, develop, and implement a conservation planning and permitting program for the University Community (including the campus), for infrastructure and support facilities related to the University Community, and for potential future development of other areas within a defined regional APlanning Area@ in eastern Merced County. This action was consistent with mitigation measures approved by The Regents in 1995 in certifying the Final Environmental Impact Report for site selection and adopting Findings as required by the California Environmental Quality Act.

UC Merced and the County are committed to meeting both the spirit and letter of regulations related to the Clear Water Act with respect to wetland protection and the Endangered Species Act (listed species such as vernal pool fairy shrimp) and have been conferring extensively

with federal and State regulatory agencies in developing a protocol and program for doing so. Because the site includes vernal pools, seasonal wetlands, and other aquatic features, as well as plant and animal species, several permits must be obtained before development of the site can commence. In conferring with the agencies, the objective is to assure an efficient, effective, and coordinated process for addressing environmental issues. Such discussions are a part of the process of satisfying regulatory requirements.

Meetings and site visits with members of the faculty and staff of the University's existing campuses and other scientists, and with environmental organizations, have also been held in the interest of sharing information and perspectives. Many of these individuals and groups have expressed concern about plans for the siting of the campus. In response, Chancellor Tomlinson-Keasey has written an opinion editorial entitled *Shaping Growth in the Central Valley*, which has been widely distributed.

The recently enacted State budget includes a \$43.8 million supplement to the Wildlife Conservation Board and the Department of Fish and Game to acquire conservation easements on approximately 60,000 acres of wetlands in eastern Merced County and to fund the above-described conservation planning and permitting program. One of the expected outcomes of the program is a regional reserve based upon conservation biology. Another expected outcome is issuance of the necessary permits for full build-out of the campus.

University Advancement

On March 22, 2000, Chancellor Tomlinson-Keasey unveiled the Foundation Board of Trustees composed of prominent individuals in the San Joaquin Valley and beyond. This board has been extremely helpful in providing counsel and direction to the chancellor and her vice chancellors.

UC Merced has received commitments for three endowed chairs which are being reviewed by the Universitywide Academic Senate Task Force on UC Merced. The confirmed chairs have been offered by the late Vincent Hillyer of Los Banos in early literature, by Wallace and Isabel Coats of Merced in the arts, and by Keith and Elinor Shaffer in engineering. Requests for additional chairs to facilitate the Chancellor's effort to attract nationally prominent senior professors to the new campus are pending.

The Pacific Gas and Electric Company made a \$100,000 contribution to enhance UC Merced's outreach efforts. Funds will launch the PG&E Academic Math Academy, part of the UC Scholars= program for sixth through eighth grade students.

Chancellor Tomlinson-Keasey acknowledged the support from the Governor and the Lieutenant Governor for UC Merced. She recalled that last year Governor Davis had appointed a Red Team to tackle the many coordination issues posed by building the new campus. Ms. Aileen Adams, Secretary of the State and Consumer Services Agency,

co-chairs the Red Team. At its first meeting, representatives from UC Merced met with secretaries, directors, and staff from every agency in the state who were eager to help to negotiate efficiently the many policies, laws, and regulations that affect the building of the campus. Secretary Adams also participates in weekly telephone calls and receives weekly updates so that she can direct the campus administration to appropriate resources in the state.

Ms. Adams, Secretary of the State and Consumer Services Agency, reported the view held throughout State government that the building of UC Merced is the most important of the thousands of projects within the agency. The administration feels that creating a tenth campus to serve one of the poorest, most rapidly expanding areas in the state in terms of population, and one of the most educationally underserved areas of the state, will be its greatest legacy. As mentioned by the Chancellor, Governor Davis created the Red Team, comprised of all relevant cabinet secretaries and department heads, as well as the Lieutenant Governor and Regent Kozberg, to ensure maximum coordination and streamlining of the UC Merced project. The executive order set a time frame for breaking ground in 2004, a year earlier than previously scheduled. A strong message has reverberated throughout State government that this project is a top priority that the Governor wants completed as quickly as possible and that the process is to be a true partnership between all relevant entities. The team is co-chaired by Chancellor Tomlinson-Keasey and includes representatives from the Merced community. The team possibly represents the highest level of coordination for any major State building project.

Ms. Adams continued that the team is helping to identify additional funding sources for UC Merced. The Trade and Commerce Agency has indicated that the California Infrastructure and Development Bank may be a possible source of funds for aspects of the project. Caltrans is helping to identify additional transportation monies, preparing project study reports to enhance roads into the city and the project, and is an active participant on the transportation advisory committee. The California Public Utilities Commission has been providing advice on UC Merced's approach to telecommunications vendors.

A sub-group of the Red Team, the Green Team, which is chaired by Secretary of Resources Nichols, is addressing in a coordinated fashion the environmental issues pertaining to UC Merced. Both teams were instrumental in developing the conservation planning and acquisition proposal that led the Governor to propose and the Legislature to appropriate \$30 million to purchase up to 60,000 acres in easements adjacent to the new campus. These monies will help to ensure the vital protection of wetlands, waterways, and wildlife. The California Environmental Protection Agency is providing expertise on building considerations so that campus design and construction can minimize environmental effects. The agency also offers financial assistance programs to help fund water-quality related infrastructure, such as sewers and wastewater treatment works. This careful environmental planning and funding has created a win-win situation. As The Nature Conservancy has pointed out, every year about 3,000 acres of vernal pool pastures are lost in this area. Under this proposal, some 60,000 acres will be preserved forever.

In closing, Secretary Adams emphasized that the State government is proceeding with a highly balanced, integrated approach that will ensure that UC Merced not only provides educational opportunities for its students but proceeds in an environmentally sensitive way.

That means protecting wetlands and endangered species, constructing a campus that is energy efficient, and incorporating environmental research as a major component of the campus. The Red Team plans to meet the Governor=s timetable of breaking ground in 2004.

Chancellor Tomlinson-Keasey reported that the first hurdle which must be negotiated involves the permits that must be obtained from the Corps of Engineers and the Fish and Wildlife Service. Secretary Nichols, Mr. Bob Hight, Director of Fish and Game, and Mr. John Schmidt, Executive Director of the Wildlife Conservation Board, are working closely with the campus on these issues. She then called upon Mr. Schmidt, who helped fashion the Governor=s conservation initiative directed to eastern Merced County, to speak about the environmental initiatives, noting that Mr. Schmidt was representing Secretary Nichols.

Mr. Schmidt reported that Green Team chair Nichols had been instrumental in working with the Governor and the Lieutenant Governor to ensure that the State provides the funding to protect environmental resources in the Merced area. The funding that has been made available to the Wildlife Conservation Board and the Fish and Wildlife Service presents an opportunity to meet some basic conservation goals and objectives by preserving wildlife habitat in eastern Merced County. The primary habitat is one of the largest concentrations of vernal pools in the state. The State budget provides \$43.8 million in environmental funding, as follows: \$13.8 million is contained with the budget of the Department of Fish and Game, and \$30 million is provided for the budget of the Wildlife Conservation Board. Of the \$13.8 million, more than \$11 million will be made available to Merced County for the preparation of three studies. These include an update of the existing General Plan for eastern Merced County and the development of a natural communities conservation plan with the goal of preventing a net loss of special-status species. Funding will also be provided to develop a special-area management plan under the Clean Water Management Act in order to identify the vernal pool habitats that need to be protected. The second component of the \$13.8 million is approximately \$2 million to be made available to the University of California to develop subplans of each of the three plans described which would deal specifically with the proposed campus site. Finally, \$300,000 will be made available to the Department of Fish and Game for staffing needs to process and monitor the project and to assist in the development of the required environmental plans. The \$30 million appropriated to the Wildlife Conservation Board will be made available for conservation easements to protect the long-term integrity of the vernal pools and the unique plant and animal species that are found in eastern Merced County. The lands that are acquired will provide the

mitigation for the development of the new campus. The Nature Conservancy is working with the Department of Fish and Game to develop a conceptual area acquisition plan which will identify priority areas for acquisition. Mr. Schmidt concluded by observing that the campus will affect its environment. In order to offset these effects, three goals will be pursued: first, to secure conservation easements on a network of strategically located tracks which will capture a full spectrum of wildlife and botanical diversity. A second goal will be to maintain a buffer area of lower-density vernal pool and grassland habitat around the core 60,000 acres by fostering compatible land use and good planning through the revision of the Merced County General Plan. Third, the University and Merced County's regional conservation planning process will fund, as mitigation, protection and management of the greater portion of the vernal pool-grassland complex, including the core 60,000-acre purchases.

The Chancellor reported that her administration is working on proposals to submit to the Department of Fish and Game that will move the conservation effort forward. The Nature Conservancy is leading the effort to secure the conservation easements.

Chancellor Tomlinson-Keasey gave a presentation based on slides which described the efforts that are under way with respect to environmental concerns. The campus site is surrounded by high-density vernal pools. The acreage under consideration for acquisition is owned by ranchers who have indicated considerable interest in the proposals to have conservation easements on their land. Grazing facilitates the preservation of the vernal pools. The plan is positive for the conservation community in that it will preserve in perpetuity approximately 60,000 acres of habitat. The ranchers will benefit by contributing to this effort without giving up their grazing interests, while the University of California will contribute to the monitoring and the management of these easements and hopefully have new opportunities for vernal pool research, including a Natural Reserve System site.

The Chancellor indicated the planned growth for the city of Merced. In 1990, long before the campus site was selected, the City of Merced approved a plan known as Merced 2015. In this plan, the city considered five scenarios for growth, all of which were presented as minimizing the impact on prime agricultural lands. The scenario that was selected calls for a northward growth pattern with four villages near Lake Yosemite. This plan uses the hills around Lake Yosemite, avoids environmentally sensitive areas, and provides public facilities efficiently and inexpensively. Since 1990, the city has been faithful to that plan and since 1995 has recognized the campus site in its planning.

In 2035, when there are 25,000 students at UC Merced, the campus area and the surrounding community will require about 3,000 acres. Ms. Tomlinson-Keasey noted that aerial photographs have documented the loss of 3,000 acres of wetlands in Merced County each year for the last decade. Over the next 25 to 35 years, the campus will require the equivalent of the land that is currently being lost each year. It will, however, contribute to the preservation of almost half the wetland and vernal pool habitat.

During the last several months, the campus has had many discussions with UC faculty, primarily at Davis and Berkeley, with the Sierra Club, the California Native Plant Society, The Nature Conservancy, and other interested parties. The scientific stance and information they have brought to the discussions have been enormously helpful and have been augmented by ongoing biological studies of the site. The administration has worked to condense the size of the footprint of the campus, is looking at a number of ways to locate the campus on the Virginia Smith site, and is evaluating the environmental impact of each placement. The campus buildings will be dense and pedestrian oriented. The goal is to produce a model community that uses sophisticated technologies to reduce energy consumption, that uses smart-growth principles, and that minimizes the use of resources.

On the academic side, there will be several opportunities to participate in the environmental stewardship of the land. The Sierra Nevada Research Institute will be a signature program for the campus that will address issues of resource management, including air, water, agricultural land, and unique habitats.

The campus will involve students in their recreation, in their lifestyles, in their academic pursuits in the environmental discussions that will be a major focus of the 21st century.

The campus will be a model for conservation. The water use programs under consideration will allow for the use and reuse of all of the water that comes to the campus. The reuse will minimize the water that has to be disposed of in the region and will contribute to recharging the ground water. The net result is that the campus will use 20 to 45 percent less water than more traditional water systems and will not affect the agricultural water supply.

The conservation effort extends into the use of gas and electricity. Using new management and building design techniques, the overall savings in gas use is expected to be in the range of 30 percent by the year 2015. The electricity demands are similarly reduced by careful planning. Although the savings are not particularly compelling in 2005, by 2015 electricity requirements will be reduced by 50 percent.

In concluding her presentation, Chancellor Tomlinson-Keasey reported that Liza Lopez, a fifth grader from Livingston, had submitted the winning mascot for UC Merced, the golden bobcat. Liza will receive a scholarship for four years of fees at UC Merced.

In response to a request from Regent Hopkinson, Chancellor Tomlinson-Keasey briefly described the permitting process that will be required for the campus. The first step involves an analysis which should be submitted to the Corps of Engineers by late summer, which will provide for several months of review prior to the November election. The Corps has placed the project at the top of its agenda, and the campus hopes for word in the fall.

Regent O. Johnson expressed concern that some Valley residents and member of the press continue to question whether the Merced campus will ever be built due to environmental

issues. She urged members of the Red Team to put this speculation at rest and to continue to communicate with Valley residents that the project will become a reality. The public should be kept informed as the permit process moves along.

Chancellor Tomlinson-Keasey stated that the Merced campus will open in 2004, either at the Lake Yosemite site or at alternative sites throughout the Central Valley. She noted that communication with the public was complicated by the lack of permits which will allow the campus to move forward on significant fronts. The members of the foundation board will meet and then return to inform their communities of the progress that is being made. Ms. Adams added that the Red Team is following the chancellor's lead in promoting an understanding of the environmentally sensitive steps that are being undertaken.

Chairman S. Johnson announced that the Board of Regents would host a reception for the UC Merced Foundation Board of Trustees following its meeting on July 27 in Fresno.

Regent Kozberg asked that Secretary Adams convey the Regents' appreciation to the Governor for his support of UC Merced.

The meeting adjourned at 12:45 p.m.

Attest:

Secretary