

The Regents of the University of California

**COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT OF THE
DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY LABORATORIES**

March 4, 2002

The Committee on Oversight of the Department of Energy Laboratories met on the above date at the UC Davis Applied Science Building 661, Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory.

Members present: Regents Morrison and Montoya

In attendance: Regent Lee, Faculty Representative Viswanathan, Provost King, Vice President McTague, Chancellor Dynes, and Associate Secretary Shaw

The meeting convened at 9:10 a.m. as the Committee to Advise the President on the Selection of a Director for Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory with Provost King presiding.

There was not a quorum of the Committee on Oversight of the Department of Energy Laboratories present.

1. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Regent Montoya explained that the Committee convened in order to permit members of the public an opportunity to address the selection of a new director for the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory. The following persons addressed the Committee.

- A. Mr. Jeff Colvin, a physicist at the laboratory and elected president of the Society of Professional Scientists and Engineers (SPSE), stated that it was important to the future viability of the laboratory and for the security of the nation that the new director assign a high priority to the goal of improving the working environment at the laboratory. The director should express a willingness to work cooperatively with SPSE and other employee groups to achieve this goal.
- B. Mr. Manuel Garcia, who has been an employee at the lab for over 20 years, supported SPSE and urged the committee to consider its recommendations. He believed it was important that the next director be a strong advocate for laboratory employees in order for the lab to be an intellectually honest and intellectually dynamic research environment.
- C. Ms. Sue Byars, an employee at the laboratory, suggested that as the committee evaluates the candidates for director, it remember the lowest level employee at the laboratory and ask how the candidates would consider that employee. She referred to a recent employee survey which resulted in recommendations for new employee convenience services, such as a fitness center, mail services, and a new cafeteria. These recommendations will be developed during the upcoming year and the new director will be in a position to implement them.

She believed that the most important characteristic of a new director is a willingness to work cooperatively on all issues affecting the working environment.

- D. Mr. Elbert Branscomb, an laboratory employee for 38 years and former director Joint Genome Institute, expressed concern for the future of biological research at the national laboratories, especially LLNL. He believed that the laboratories should play as significant a role in the future of understanding the life sciences as they have traditionally played in the developmental of the physical and computational sciences, and hoped this would be a consideration in the selection of a new director.
- E. Mr. Bo Pister, a former laboratory employee and a resident of Livermore, noted that while the laboratory has made major contributions to the security of the nation, it faces new challenges as the laboratory has grown from a strictly weapons design facility to one engaged in a variety of scientific endeavors. He believed that a “business as usual” mentality will no longer suffice. He recommended that the new director should be filled by someone from outside Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory and the committee should look to industry for the leadership and management skills required to fulfill the potential of the laboratory.
- F. Ms. Marylia Kelley, the executive director of Tri-Valley Cares, requested an evening meeting in Livermore devoted to the issue of the selection of the director. She believed that it is important that the next director have an extensive background in civilian science initiatives. She stated that the laboratory has boxed itself into an increasingly narrow weapons design future and hoped that the next director would be someone who would take a fresh look at programs such as the National Ignition Program. She hoped the next director would have a commitment to the cleanup of toxic and radioactive pollution and would stand behind employees, especially those who bring forward security and safety violations.
- G. Ms. Tara Dorabji, a University of California, Santa Cruz, alumna and Livermore resident, hoped the new director would take community concerns into consideration. She stated that as part of the University of California, the laboratory has an obligation to consider long-term moral implications of the nuclear research conducted at there. She felt that the current laboratory administration has not done this and therefore it was important that the new director come from outside the current laboratory management.
- H. Ms. Dorothy Ng, a civil engineer who had retired from the laboratory, stated that for the laboratory to continue to be a successful and respected organization

it is important to have a leader who has the experience and desire to build a harmonious workforce. She suggested that the new director have certain qualities which include valuing the contributions of employees and properly rewarding them and practicing fairness in the management of projects at the laboratory.

- I. Mr. Bill Nellis, a physicist at the laboratory, believed that the question the committee should be addressing is not who is best qualified to continue the leadership of the laboratory but rather who is best qualified to lead the transition to new areas of focus at the laboratory. He stated that the next director should be a person with broad knowledge and flexibility who is from outside the laboratory.

The committee went into Closed Session at 9:40 a.m.

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The meeting adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

Attest

Associate Secretary