

The Regents of the University of California

**COMMITTEE ON GROUNDS AND BUILDINGS**

March 18, 2015

The Committee on Grounds and Buildings met on the above date at UCSF–Mission Bay Conference Center, San Francisco.

Members present: Regents De La Peña, Leong Clancy, Makarechian, Saifuddin, Sherman, and Zettel; Ex officio members Brown, Napolitano, and Varner; Advisory members Davis and Hare; Staff Advisors Acker and Coyne

In attendance: Regents Elliott, Engelhorn, Gould, Island, Kieffer, Lansing, Lozano, Newsom, Ortiz Oakley, Pattiz, and Pérez, Regents-designate Gorman and Oved, Faculty Representative Gilly, Secretary and Chief of Staff Shaw, General Counsel Robinson, Provost Dorr, Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer Brostrom, Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer Nava, Senior Vice Presidents Henderson and Peacock, Vice Presidents Brown, Budil, Duckett, and Sakaki, Chancellors Block, Blumenthal, Dirks, Gillman, Hawgood, Katehi, Khosla, Leland, Wilcox, and Yang, and Recording Secretary Johns

The meeting convened at 12:05 p.m. with Committee Chair Makarechian presiding.

**1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the minutes of the meeting of January 22, 2015 were approved.

**2. APPROVAL OF PRELIMINARY PLANS FUNDING, DOWNTOWN CENTER, MERCED CAMPUS**

The President of the University recommended that the 2014-15 Budget for Capital Improvements and the Capital Improvement Program be amended to include the following project:

Merced: Downtown Center – preliminary plans – \$1.36 million to be funded from campus funds.

[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.]

Committee Chair Makarechian stated that this item requested approval for preliminary plans funding for the Downtown Center at UC Merced. Chancellor Leland explained that all of the campus' functions could not be accommodated on its planned reduced footprint. Campus staff spent one and a half years exploring lease vs. purchase options for a place to

consolidate six off-campus sites. The campus purchased a property in downtown Merced and approval of preliminary plans funding would allow planning to proceed.

Committee Chair Makarechian expressed support for this project.

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the Committee approved the President's recommendation and voted to present it to the Board.

3. **ANNUAL REPORT ON SUSTAINABLE PRACTICES, 2014**

[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.]

Committee Chair Makarechian expressed strong interest in this presentation of the University's work in sustainability.

Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer Brostrom expressed pride in this 2014 Annual Report on Sustainable Practices. Mr. Brostrom had been overseeing the University's sustainability efforts, but henceforth Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer Nava would have that responsibility. In the past year, one or more UC campuses or the entire UC system was in the top tier of every sustainability ranking published to date, including the *Princeton Review*, *U.S. News and World Report*, and *Sierra Club Magazine*. Several UC medical centers have been recognized for their work in sustainability.

The prior year, President Napolitano launched the Global Climate Leadership Council to support the University's ambitious goal of achieving carbon neutrality by 2025. President Napolitano convened the Global Climate Leadership Council three times, with representatives from every campus, the National Laboratories, and the Division of Agriculture and Natural Resources (ANR). In January, UC began supplying electricity directly to five of its campuses and three UC medical centers, enabling the University to gain more control over the type of energy it buys and providing greater transparency in pricing to the campuses and medical centers. The University made the largest purchase of solar power of any university in the nation, a 80-megawatt project located in Fresno County that would supply electricity directly to UC campuses. Recently, a student fellowship program was launched, offering more than 30 student sustainability fellowships across all campuses.

A centerpiece of UC's climate action has been an almost ten-year relationship with investor-owned utilities (IOUs) in a strategic energy partnership that enables UC to invest in energy-efficiency projects with the IOUs providing rebates that serve as equity on the projects. These projects have included lighting retrofits, building recommissioning, and upgrades to heating, ventilation, and air conditioning systems, all of which both reduced energy consumption and addressed deferred maintenance needs. In the past year, UC received \$7 million in direct incentives from the IOUs, enabling 80 projects. Annual avoided energy costs across all UC campuses totaled \$28 million in 2014.

In 2003 the University set a clean energy policy to install at least ten megawatts of on-campus renewable energy by 2014. In fact that goal has been exceeded: 17 megawatts of onsite renewable energy was installed by 2014. Capacity to generate an additional 23 megawatts of solar photovoltaic power is currently under construction or contract. The reduced footprint of the UC Merced campus could allow installation of a solar farm on the remaining acreage. Other projects include biogas derived from landfill, a sewage treatment plant, and an agricultural waste biodigester at UC Davis.

UC has more Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certified buildings than any other university in the nation. LEED certifications have been achieved across multiple categories, including new construction, renovation projects, faculty housing, and ongoing operations and maintenance. By the end of 2014, UC had 191 LEED-certified buildings, including seven buildings rated LEED platinum, the highest certification. Most of UC's new buildings have received LEED gold certification.

In the area of water and drought response, Mr. Brostrom reported that UC was organizing a drought summit in Sacramento featuring a wide range of experts in understanding the drought and developing response strategies. President Napolitano had announced the goal of all UC campuses and medical centers reducing potable water use by 20 percent by 2020. The Division of ANR has been very active in this area, having held more than 100 training seminars for ranchers and farmers regarding the effects of the drought on their operations.

In July 2014 President Napolitano launched a Global Food Initiative that rallied the UC community around a wide range of food sustainability and nutrition issues. Five UC campuses and three UC medical centers have already exceeded the 2020 goal to purchase at least 20 percent of their food from sustainable sources.

UC campuses are at the forefront of sustainable transportation. UC Davis was one of only two U.S. campuses recognized as a platinum-rated bicycle-friendly university. Four UC campuses, UC Davis, UC Irvine, UCLA, and UCSF, were on the national list of best workplaces for commuters; UCSF was recognized as the best university in the nation for commuters. The University's goal is to reduce single-occupancy vehicle use as much as possible.

The University strives to achieve zero waste, defined as 95 percent waste diversion. UC Irvine is close to that goal, diverting 93 percent of its waste from landfill. Zero waste events have been hosted at UC sporting events.

At eight UC undergraduate campuses, students have passed referenda for student fees to support sustainability grants for projects such as solar installations, LED lighting upgrades, and conversions of campus shuttles to electric vehicles. Across UC campuses more than 200 student organizations are devoted to sustainability. Each year UC hosts a sustainability forum, with more than 120 student leaders attending the last retreat.

Regent Zettel congratulated all involved in these projects and the leadership of the Office of the President. She asked about the location and distribution potential of the University's two new solar projects. Mr. Brostrom said they were in Five Points, California, on land not usable for agriculture. Power would be distributed to the five UC campuses and three medical centers that have direct access status. The University is exploring ways to provide power to campuses such as UCLA and UC Davis Medical Center that are served by municipal utilities. The University established a wholesale energy company.

Regent Makarechian asked about the one megawatt limit on rebates for construction of solar energy projects. Mr. Brostrom said this rebate program is overseen by the California Public Utilities Commission. To date, the one megawatt limit has not hindered UC's efforts, since most of its development would be offsite, and would not be larger than one megawatt. However, the Merced project would have the capacity to generate 35 to 40 megawatts of solar power.

Governor Brown observed that UC has an important role to play in developing technologies to help reach the State's ambitious energy goals: 50 percent reduction of energy consumption in existing buildings by 2030; zero net energy in all new residential buildings by 2020; zero net energy for all new commercial buildings by 2025; 50 percent reduction in petroleum use by vehicles by 2030; and use of 50 percent renewable energy statewide by 2030. Mr. Brostrom agreed that UC research would be crucial in these efforts.

Committee Chair Makarechian expressed appreciation for this impressive Report.

The meeting adjourned at 12:25 p.m.

Attest:

Secretary and Chief of Staff