

The Regents of the University of California

NATIONAL LABORATORIES COMMITTEE

January 24, 2024

The National Laboratories Committee met on the above date at UCSF-Mission Bay Conference Center, San Francisco campus and by teleconference at 1021 O Street and 1430 N Street, Sacramento and Corral del Risco, 63727 Nayarit, Mexico.

Members present: Regents Cohen, Hernandez, Kounalakis, Lee, Matosantos, Reilly, Robinson, and Sures; Ex officio members Drake and Leib; Advisory member Cheung; Chancellors Hawgood, Khosla, and May; Staff Advisor Emiru

In attendance: Regents Chu, Elliott, Pérez, and Sherman, Regent-designate Beharry, Secretary and Chief of Staff Lyall, General Counsel Robinson, Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer Brostrom, Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer Nava, Vice President Leasure, Chancellor Gillman, and Recording Secretary Li

The meeting convened at 2:00 p.m. with Committee Chair Hernandez presiding.

Committee Chair Hernandez announced that Vice President Leasure was retiring from the University after more than 21 years of service to UC and 34 years of service to the University's National Laboratories. He commended the impact that Mr. Leasure's leadership has had on the National Laboratories and praised Mr. Leasure's relationships with the Board, with executives and managers at the National Laboratories, and with the U.S. Department of Energy and National Nuclear Security Administration. Mr. Leasure was the recipient of a Silver Snoopy pin, awarded by the NASA Astronaut Corps to less than one percent of its civil servants and contractors.

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the minutes of the meeting of November 15, 2023 were approved, Regents Cohen, Drake, Hernandez, Kounalakis, Lee, Leib, Matosantos, Reilly, Robinson, and Sures voting "aye."¹

2. ANNUAL REPORT ON FISCAL YEAR 2023 NATIONAL LABORATORY PERFORMANCE RATINGS

[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.]

Vice President Leasure provided an overview of the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) ratings of UC National Laboratories for federal fiscal year 2023. Lawrence Berkeley

¹ Roll call vote required by the Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act [Government Code §11123(b)(1)(D)] for all meetings held by teleconference.

National Laboratory (LBNL) received a score of 94 percent, the highest among DOE Office of Science National Laboratories. LBNL was the only Office of Science National Laboratory that received grades of “A” or “A-” across eight categories. Director Michael Witherell and his leadership team were recognized as outstanding, and the receipt of Nobel Prizes by former LBNL scientists helped bolster the Laboratory’s reputation. Mr. Leasure emphasized that the federal government noted no significant issues with LBNL.

Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (LLNL) received an earned fee of 96 percent and a score of 94 percent, the highest among National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) sites and the highest that LLNL has ever received. NNSA regarded LLNL’s achievement of fusion ignition as a historic scientific achievement, recognized the Laboratory’s sustained excellence in science and technology, and noted no significant issues. Director Kimberly Budil was also recognized for her leadership.

Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) received a score of 89.4 percent, the highest the Laboratory has received in about 20 years. NNSA recognized LANL’s high performance through a period of growth, from about 12,000 to 17,500 employees in the last five years. Triad National Security, LLC received a rating of 100 percent in science and technology, and LANL was recognized for supporting NNSA’s highest-priority national and global security missions. NNSA noted issues in sustaining safe facility operations.

In its July 2023 spend plan, UC National Laboratories estimated that LLNL and LANL would earn a total of \$29.7 million, but they actually earned \$34.8 million.

President Drake thanked Mr. Leasure for his leadership and guidance, and he praised the recruitment of Director Budil as Director of LLNL. He emphasized the NNSA assessment that LLNL excelled at “maintaining an inclusive and vibrant research environment,” and he saw an opportunity for further growth.

Committee Chair Hernandez thanked Mr. Leasure for his dedication and service given the National Laboratories’ role in nuclear nonproliferation, national defense, and renewable alternative energy sources.

Regent Reilly thanked Mr. Leasure for his warm welcome of Regents who toured the National Laboratories.

Chancellor Hawgood asked Mr. Leasure to provide an update regarding the University’s bid to manage Frederick National Laboratory for Cancer Research. Mr. Leasure responded that UC submitted its proposal in February 2023, and the proposal’s validity has been extended for nearly four more weeks. UC was waiting for a response from the National Cancer Institute, which was completing its deliberations.

Committee Chair Hernandez asked about the renewal of UC’s National Laboratory contracts. Mr. Leasure stated that the University’s contract with LBNL ends in 2025, and the DOE was pursuing an extension option for five more years. UC was speaking with the NNSA as well.

The meeting adjourned at 2:20 p.m.

Attest:

Secretary and Chief of Staff