

## **REMARKS TO THE BOARD OF REGENTS**

**President Robert C. Dynes**

**January 14, 2004**

Mr. Chairman and members of the Board, I have just a few remarks before we begin our first item of the day.

Obviously the state budget is looming large in all of our minds, and Vice President Hershman will be leading us through a discussion of the issues in just a few minutes. Clearly, Governor Schwarzenegger is facing some difficult choices as he wrestles with a major state budget shortfall. His budget is a product of those difficult choices.

At the same time, it's clear that this budget, coming on top of the major budget cuts of the last three years, will have a substantial impact on the University of California. The budget cuts, over time, have begun chipping away at the quality, accessibility, and affordability of the University. Those things hard to regain once they are lost, and they are things that have a direct impact on the opportunities we're able to provide California's students and the contributions we're able to make to the state's economic growth.

So, I'm very concerned about the cumulative impact of the budget cuts we're seeing. I look forward to hearing the Regents' input today, and I hope I can call on you to join me in working with the governor and the Legislature this year on an acceptable budget outcome.

I also want to mention that, as part of the budget presentation today, Senior Vice President Darling will be updating us on the status of Proposition 55, the education bond measure on the March 2<sup>nd</sup> ballot. I believe this measure is very important to the future of the University of California, and we can't afford to lose sight of it as we discuss all of the other budget issues before us.

One of the things that makes a University of California education so special, and so valuable, is the extent to which undergraduates become involved in our research enterprise. A large percentage of our undergraduates take advantage of research experiences at the University, and it adds something very special to the college experience. The opportunity to work directly with faculty – in the lab, in the library, in the studio, and in the field – connects undergraduates to the life of the scholar, enriches their understanding of what they learn in the classroom, and inspires many of them to pursue graduate study.

And what these undergraduate researchers produce is tremendously impressive. To give you first-hand proof of that, we've invited some of these students to this meeting. Tomorrow morning, as the Regents arrive, I invite you to take a look at the posters in the lobby and coffee room depicting undergraduate research projects. A number of the undergraduates who worked on these projects will be standing with their posters, in case

you have questions about the topic or about their experiences. I hope you'll take some time to talk with them and hear more about the value of undergraduate research at UC.

I want to report very briefly that I am continuing my [inaugural tour](#) of the UC campuses – as well as regions of California without a UC campus – and it is going tremendously well. I am hearing from lots of people about their ideas and hopes for the University, and I also am getting a first-hand look at the different personalities of the campuses. The differences really are striking, and those differences are an important source of the University's strength. My next stop is Santa Cruz at the end of this month, followed by Berkeley in early March.

Finally, I could not let pass this opportunity to mention the death of President Emeritus Clark Kerr last month. President Kerr was a giant in American higher education and will forever be remembered as one of the University of California's greatest leaders. The Master Plan that he played so large a role in creating has stood a remarkable test of time. More than 40 years later, we continue to abide by the standards it set, and we all work tremendously hard to live up to its promise of quality, access, and affordability.

The Master Plan has worked tremendously well for California. Now, as we enter a period of deepening budget constraints, we can only hope that decision makers at the state level will look to the legacy of Clark Kerr, recognize the value of what he created, and continue to invest in the promise of the Master Plan for the people of California.

Mr. Chairman, that concludes my comments.