

REMARKS TO THE BOARD OF REGENTS

President Robert C. Dynes

November 19, 2003

Mr. Chairman, it's the custom of the president of the University to make a few opening comments at these Regents' meetings. I am delighted to do so, although I will keep it short so we can quickly move on to the business of the day.

We have a busy agenda before us, with items on the budget, eligibility and admissions, a board of directors for the national laboratories, updates on UC Merced and the Lawrence Livermore lab, and the presentation of the UC Annual Financial Report.

But I think the overarching theme of our discussions – and the theme I am talking about as I travel around the state – can be summarized in one word: Impact.

It is easy to forget, as we focus on individual issues, the extraordinary impact the University of California has on our state, and indeed on the nation and the world.

California has its periodic political and economic upheavals. But the reality is that, despite our occasional ups and downs, this state remains the envy of the world. The rest of the world literally looks to California for the latest ideas.

I believe that fact a testament to the success of innovation, diversity, tolerance, risk-taking, and entrepreneurship – the characteristics that define California today. And much of that success simply would not be possible without the University of California and our contributions to education, health care, job creation, and quality of life.

All Californians are touched by the work of the University of California – through our teaching, our medical care, the new products and jobs created by our research, and our work in the public schools and agricultural fields of California.

Our first item today is the presentation of a report that was commissioned to assess, more thoroughly than ever before, the true impact of this University. I think that is an important frame for everything else we talk about today.

The impact of the University also is important to keep in mind as we consider the challenges that lie ahead.

We're going into a very difficult budget year. We need to be telling the story of UC's impact on California, and making sure it's understood, because sustaining that impact requires the state's investment in the University to continue.

We on the Board need to be united, and we need to speak with a single, clear voice: that the things this University accomplishes for the people of California are vital to our economy and quality of life, and that those things can continue and grow IF we receive the support of the state.

I'm looking forward to more conversation on this topic today, and in the weeks and months ahead.