



President Robert C. Dynes
Video Letter Transcript, March 30, 2005

Hi, thanks for tuning in.

As I deliver this message to you, it's a gorgeous, spring morning here in Northern California. Spring always does something to me – maybe it just reminds me of my youth or something – but I always feel a sense of renewal and a lot of enthusiasm in spring. I hope you feel the same; it's really a nice time of the year.

Let me talk about a few things that are on my mind. Seems that always the budget is on my mind, maybe that's a good thing. So, let me talk about where we are. It's spring and we are going into the budget season.

We have not yet met the May Revise, but the governor continues to assure us that he will support the compact, as we originally agreed upon. And as I wander around Sacramento, the message I receive from both sides of the House – the Democrats and the Republicans – is that the compact will be supported. So everything looks good at this point.

The one issue which I continue to hammer on is the academic preparation money, which is not in the compact; and any help you can give us on academic preparation is important because it is a vital part of our mission, and that is digging into the young people of California and preparing them so that they are competitive for the University of California.

The next step, of course, is the May Revise and I hope we get through that revise unscathed. If all that happens, we will get increased enrollment money and finally some funding for increased salaries, which is long overdue. I know it is long overdue and I thank you all for enduring the difficult times that we have endured.

On the national labs, we have submitted a proposal for the Berkeley Lab and we are awaiting a decision – this is the end of March as I give you this video – and we've been told by the DOE that we should hear some time early in April, so we're looking forward to a hopefully favorable response from the Department of Energy.

We're still working on the Los Alamos and Livermore issues. They continue to be fluid. Those of you at Los Alamos know that they are fluid – lots and lots of rumors, lots and lots of discussions about who's competing, who's not competing. In the meantime, I do recognize the quality of science that's being done at all three national labs and I thank you for really excellent work, even in difficult times. We must continue to deliver the quality of science that we deliver in order for people to recognize the quality of these laboratories.

For the staff, it's a rather interesting time. We are entering a two-year pilot program. This pilot program will designate some staff to serve as advisors to key Regent committees. As many of you know, this was approved by the Regents a month and a half ago or so. And we identified two key committees. I think the staff will bring great value to the Regents of the university. Those two key committees are, of course, the educational policy committee and the buildings and grounds committee – two places where I know staff can bring great value to the Regents as they think about things.

One last thing – a really positive thing – is more evidence of UC excellence keeps coming in.

As I continue to travel around the state, I've found these visits to be extremely valuable. The last visits have been in San Diego, Imperial Valley and L.A. County. I looked at 4-H programs in Imperial Valley and East Los Angeles – two rather extreme areas of the state of California – and I continue to be astounded by what you deliver to people in the state of California. It's really quite remarkable – the breadth and depth of the impacts that the University has on the state of California.

Great honors have come to UC recently: just a week and a half ago or so, there were three national medals of science awarded to our faculty. There were eight National Medals of Science awarded in the country, and three went to UC faculty.

It was just announced that 10 new members of the National Academy of Engineering are UC faculty. Another really outstanding accomplishment!

And it was just announced this week that UC again, for the 11th year in a row, is the institution which produces the most patents in the United States. So, again we lead in our innovation and our accomplishments of our faculty. These are accomplishments that *you* have achieved and you make me very proud. Thank you.

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