



President Robert C. Dynes
Transcript of April 2004 Video Letter

Good morning, or afternoon or evening – or whenever you’re logging on to the web page. Thanks for clicking in. I hope you find these video letters useful. I’ve received a substantial amount of feedback from several of you that suggests that in fact they are valuable, so we’ll keep doing them until you can’t stand it anymore!

Let me start off by talking about the national labs. We are continuing to prepare as if we will be competing for the contracts of all three of the national labs. The situation right now is, as those of you that watch carefully – the situation is very fluid and we are trying to position ourselves to keep all our options open at this point and of course, you do understand that the final decision as to whether we compete or not is made by the Regents after they see the requested proposals, that we are proceeding as if we will be competing.

We’re in the process of a search for the Berkeley Lab director and in fact this morning – this morning for me, I don’t know when it was for you – but this morning for me we had the next stage of the search committee meeting for the Berkeley Lab director, we’ve had what I think are exciting candidates in the pool. We just submitted a formal statement of interest in the Berkeley Lab contract competition and we are moving ahead, expecting to compete aggressively for the Berkeley Lab contract.

Los Alamos and Livermore are next and we await the request for proposals and we are continuing to make improvements in the management of those laboratories so that we will be as strong as we possibly can and of course, contribute to the strength of those laboratories in the best interest of the nation.

Before I get off the labs, I want to make a statement that I’ve made several times and I hope a lot of you have heard me on that and that is that I really do believe in the strength of these national laboratories – they are doing incredible things, they are working very hard in the advancement of science and in the best interest of the nation and I’m really impressed with the science and technology that goes on at all three of the UC laboratories.

On the campuses, we’ve just finished the freshman admissions process and there’s good news and there’s some news, which I find slightly disturbing. The good news is that the quality of the students that are applying and want to come to the University of California and study here is just getting better and better and better. These are outstanding students that want to come to the University of California.

The unfortunate news is that, because of the budget, we’ve had to reduce the number of students that we are admitting this year and that has upset, obviously, young people in the state of California. We’re asking these people who are UC eligible to go to the community colleges, spend two years in the community colleges and then move over to UC and that’s not something

that is in their future plans and that's unfortunate. It's because of budget circumstances and if you've been reading the paper recently you understand why we've had to do this.

The other part that's disturbing in this is we've discovered that although throughout the system, the number of underrepresented students that we've admitted has remained approximately constant on a couple of campuses it has dropped and it has dropped enough to disturb me and we are looking into whether this is a one-time fluctuation or whether it is a trend that's going on, in which case we have to pay some attention to what's going on here. So stay tuned on that, we will be looking more carefully.

The third thing I want to talk about is state budget. The next step in the state budget is something called the May revise – that is, in May, the governor and the legislature gets together and revises the original governor's proposal and it's at that point we will discover whether we will experience more cuts or less cuts and where they will be, from the original governor's proposal for budget.

I and others – some of you – are spending an awful lot of time in Sacramento and around the state, making the case for the University – making a case that cuts to the university are not in the best interest of state. There are a lot of people inside the university that are spending time doing that and some of the leading CEOs of companies in the state of California are doing this for us, and for them, as well. And I thank everyone of you who are making the case. We are being heard in Sacramento. I can assure you we are clearly being heard in Sacramento on this point.

The case that we're making is very simple, very straightforward and that is, that the University of California is part of the future. We are not the problem, we are the solution to the budget problem. We've had an enormous impact in economics, the quality of life, the health of the state of California and an investment in the University of California is not an expenditure, it's an investment to the future. If you want to learn anymore about that, please go to the website that we've just set up. It's www.ucforcalifornia.org - why don't you go there, have a look, see how you can help us and you might learn something about the kind of effort that we are making on advocacy.

Thanks for clicking in – let's stay tuned.