

A “Vision” Conversation with President Robert Dynes

Presidents and Regents Retirees Association Luncheon

October 27, 2004

Berkeley, CA

- Thank you, Sandy, for the introduction.
- What a pleasure it has been to share lunch with you here today, to get to know where you’ve been, and what you are doing as retirees.
- I am especially excited to talk with you today because I want to tell you personally about our Advocacy Campaign, and how you can play a vital part in it. I am making an assumption that you’re here because you care deeply about UC — and that besides the obvious benefits of networking and sharing a great meal together, you want to be *involved*.
 - This year, UC has been asking everyone in its "family" — alumni, students, parents, faculty, staff and friends — to join together in a coordinated grassroots effort to help educate and remind elected officials why their support for our world-class institution is critical for California’s future.
 - In my mind, you, as retirees, are the perfect UC stewards — your experience with the University and your caring runs long and deep.
 - And though *I* haven’t gotten around to retirement yet, I’m making another assumption that retirement is about much more than leaving a job or a career. It is about *beginning something new*.
 - So as a relatively new President beginning my second year in Office, I’m looking to you as partners — in helping to create and carry out our vision for the University of California.
- As you may know, during my first year in office, the University has faced many challenges.
- There also has been plenty of good news. So I’m going to review for you some of the important events and issues of the year, and then I’ll tell you about my vision for the University going forward.
- As you listen, I hope you’ll be thinking about where you can play a part in the important work before us. We’ll have plenty of time for questions and answers, and my hope is that this will be the *beginning of a fruitful ongoing dialogue between us*.

- *I'll start with the good news.* As many of you know, we now have a compact with the Governor that promises an end to the state budget cuts of the last four years, and a new period of stability and growth — beginning in the year 2005-2006 through 2010-2011.
 - Though it *does not meet all* of our budget needs, the Compact *does* provide a minimum level of funding to prevent further erosion of UC's budget.
 - It means we can once again start planning for salary increases, enrollment growth, and general recovery from the accumulated budget cuts.
 - And it means we have some stability that allows us to begin planning for the *longer term*.
 - We have begun a long range planning process with the chancellors and many other constituencies within the University, and on October 1st, the Regents held a retreat at Lake Arrowhead to discuss the future of the University.
 - Four objectives emerged from that meeting –
 - One is obvious – to maintain and advance the University's quality.
 - Another was procedural – to clearly define roles for the Regents, Office of the President, and the campuses.
 - *Two others stood out* —
 - to develop a Master Plan for the University of California to help guide our activities over the next 20 years, and
 - to develop a sustainable resource model for the University.
- In an “SWOT” exercise that looked at strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats, *many strengths emerged* --
 - The University's size and breadth,
 - its national and international presence,
 - medical centers,
 - ability to attract research funding,
 - experience in public/private and industry partnerships,
 - each campus a world leader in a unique area,
 - diversity,
 - K-12 involvement —
 - All these are among our key strengths.

- These strengths, combined with emerging research fields such as nanotechnology, genomics and bioinformatics, and continued globalization — present *almost innumerable opportunities for a bright future* for the University — and therefore, for all Californians, and for many others in our nation and around the world.
- We’re already taking advantage of the opportunities —
- The California *Institutes for Science and Innovation* are an example –
 - In these four institutes, the new ideas and technologies developed by multidisciplinary teams of researchers from academia and industry will help expand our economy into new industries and markets - and bring the benefits of innovation more quickly into the lives of people all around the world.
- This Friday, I’ll be breaking ground here in Berkeley for the *Center for Information Technology Research in the Interest of Society* – CITRIS for short.
- Although CITRIS is centered at UC Berkeley, its researchers will work from the Berkeley, Santa Cruz, Davis and Merced campuses;
- And they will work on problems that have a *major impact on the economy, quality of life, and future success of California* — such as:
 - conserving energy;
 - saving lives, property, and productivity in the wake of disasters;
 - boosting transportation efficiency;
 - advancing diagnosis and treatment of disease; and
 - expanding business growth through better information services.
- In the *first week of November, I’ll be on the Santa Cruz campus* to celebrate the dedication and ribbon cutting for the Engineering 2 building and the Jack Baskin Auditorium. Both buildings will serve two of the Institutes — CITRIS and the Institute for Quantitative Biomedical Research, called QB3.
- Then *on November 19, I’ll be in Irvine*, helping to cut the ribbon on the *new Cal-(IT)2 building* and introduce the “research center” housed inside it, to the campus, donors, and off campus groups and community.
 - *Cal- (IT)2* stands for the California Institute for Telecommunications and Information Technology.
 - It teams UCSD and UCI with leading California high technology companies to extend the reach of the Internet.

- And its purpose is to accelerate advances in environmental science, civil infrastructure, intelligent transportation, genomic medicine, new media arts, and educational practices.
- *Another new beginning at the University* is the new UC campus at Merced. Many of you are excited about it — *and with good reason* — it, too is rife with opportunities.
 - As the first American research university built in the 21st century, it is being created using a digital network and the latest environmentally-sensitive techniques — both to promote economic development and to serve students and communities throughout the San Joaquin Valley.
 - *So how have I spent my beginning year in office?* Some of you may know I've spent a good part of it on an "inaugural tour." I visited the campuses, their surrounding communities, even regions of the state without a UC campus.

And I've visited Washington, D.C., because of course, our reach extends beyond the state and because federal government funding is becoming even more essential to our research institutions.

- In the last two weeks I visited the Redding/North State and Napa/Sonoma regions.
- The tour has been a great way to see firsthand how the University of California touches the lives of Californians, and it has convinced me that our impact extends far beyond our classrooms and campuses.
- In fact, the University is *integrated into the very lifeblood of our state*, and I believe that the University touches the lives in some way, every day, of every Californian.
- Not every Californian may realize this, so my tour has also been a great way to spread the word about *UC's impact* — on higher education, yes — but also on the California economy, and on the health and quality of life of all Californians. The message I carry as I continue to tour is —
 - UC generates economic growth and new jobs through our research innovations.
 - We improve Californians' health through cutting-edge research and clinical care.
 - And all of these contributions work to help sustain and enhance our citizens' quality of life.
- In the last year, we've been fond of saying, "**It Starts Here,**" meaning educational opportunity, economic growth, state-of-the-art healthcare, community connections — any Californian's future, can, and does start at UC.

- But we need to remember that change is always with us. And as California and the world changes around us, UC too, must change.
- Change has brought challenges — and some of those noted in the “SWOT” exercise during the Regents retreat were:
 - The rising cost of doing business in California. *It is real and it is staggering.*
 - California is starting to lose ground to others states and countries in educating and training its residents for technical careers.
 - As I’ve traveled around the state, business leaders have told me over and over that they need the University of California to continue generating research innovations and producing a highly educated workforce.
- The University clearly needs to gear our activities to *keep California competitive and healthy* — by:
 - improving our K-12 school system,
 - providing a highly educated workforce,
 - continuing the highest quality research and innovation,
 - promoting and drawing on participation from a highly diverse population.
- *I know we can do all this*, and with the compact, we will be better prepared to accomplish our objectives.
- The challenges we face call for:
 - *improved efficiencies in everything we do,*
 - *continued advocacy for support from the State of California,* and
 - *more advocacy* for support from the federal government and private sources.
- For example, we need to bolster research programs, not only with state dollars, but also with federal dollars.
- Federal dollars have been one of the critical sources for the Institutes for Science and Innovation and these dollars will be needed to help sustain the Institutes as they grow.
- We need to play to our myriad strengths with all the energy we can muster.
- We need funding, and strategic planning.
- We need ideas, and we need participation.

- And today I'm asking you for your ideas, and your continued participation — in order to take advantage of the opportunities we have before us, and to tackle our challenges.
- *What can you do?*
- Continue to stay in touch with the University.
- Talk with each other.
- Get involved in new activities and initiatives.
- Be advocates for the University.
- Visit our advocacy campaign web site, www.ucforcalifornia.org — where you can stay updated on University issues and use email templates to easily contact elected officials with your support for UC.
- Send your ideas to *Dynes' Desk*, on my web site, where you can email an idea, comment or suggestion to me. I read every one.
- We can start generating questions and ideas right now in our Q+A.
- Thank you, so much, for coming today.
- Thank you for contributing your precious retirement time to continue to work for new beginnings at UC.