February 17, 2011

MARYE ANNE FOX
Chancellor
UC San Diego

Subject: UC Board of Overseers Educational Summit Report

Dear Chancellor Fox:

On behalf of the Board of Overseers, we are pleased to present to you a report of the UC San Diego Educational Summit sponsored by the UC San Diego Board of Overseers on November 21, 2009.

Thank you, Chancellor Fox, for your support.

Sincerely,

Ron Baza
Chair, Board of Overseers

Jennifer Adams-Brooks
Executive Committee Member of the
Board of Overseers

UC San Diego Board of Overseers Educational Summit Report

Executive Summary

The idea for the Educational Summit stemmed from various conversations between the Chancellor and members of the Board of Overseers, in particular Jennifer Adams-Brooks and Dr. Ron Baza, about the university's efforts to increase the yield and retention of underrepresented students. Adams-Brooks and Baza met with members of the Chancellor's and Vice Chancellor-Student Affairs' staff to brainstorm ideas. The proposal for an Educational Summit was developed and presented to members of the Board who unanimously approved the recommendations.

The UC San Diego Educational Summit, hosted by the Board of Overseers, was held on November 21, 2009 in the Price Center Ballroom on the UC San Diego campus to engage community leaders in a discussion about how to improve the university's yield and retention of historically underrepresented students. More than 100 community leaders from the African American, Chicano/Latino, Native American communities, and UC San Diego students, faculty and administrators, engaged in the important dialogue.

The Vice Chancellor-Student Affairs Penny Rue and Associate Chancellor and Chief Diversity Officer Sandra Daley welcomed the participants and gave an overview of applications and admissions data and institutional efforts to increase the numbers of admitted students to choose UC San Diego. The underlying premise was to present, in a transparent manner, the university's data regarding applicants, admits, yield, financial aid and community outreach in order to inform attendees' later discussion in breakout sessions. Participants were then invited to take part in one of three breakout sessions on Academic Preparation and Admissions, Accessibility and Affordability, and Community Outreach. Each group had at least two administrators who briefed the participants on the discussion topics, and members of the Board facilitated the sessions to develop recommendations for future university action.

Following the breakout sessions, the entire group reconvened for presentations from each breakout session. Major discussion points and recommendations were highlighted and an open discussion provided additional ideas and concerns. A student panel of underrepresented students relayed their first-hand experiences at UC San Diego. The lively discussions brought about a unification of purpose in striving to meet a common goal to create a student body that reflects the diversity of our state.

Goals

Members of the Board of Overseers discussed and set numerous goals for the UC San Diego Educational Summit. They included:

- Outreach to the local San Diego community to solicit recommendations for improving yield and retention rates of underrepresented students at UC San Diego

- Seek community support in raising awareness, among constituents, families and young people, that UC San Diego is a premiere higher education institution right here in San Diego

- Demonstrate to community leaders that UC San Diego students use their education to improve their local communities

- Build trust with our local, diverse communities so they feel welcomed and better connected with UC San Diego

- Break the myth that UC San Diego is not a welcoming place for underrepresented students

- Educate community leaders about our diversity and outreach efforts, and the support services provided by the university for underrepresented students

- Seek new contacts and relationships with the community.

Findings and Recommendations

Through the breakout sessions and group dialogue, participants offered numerous findings and recommendations.

Among the findings of what the university does well:

- Provides college-preparatory information for high school students

- Provides nurturing, welcoming spaces and programs such as The Office of Academic Support and Instructional Services (OASIS), the Preuss School and the Cross-Cultural Center

- Highlights Chicano heritage through the temporary Chicano Legacy Mural on Peterson Hall

Among the recommendations:

- Make Chicano Legacy Mural permanent

- Improve access and affordability in the face of rising tuition

- Prioritize African-American Studies and other ethnic studies

- Hire more underrepresented faculty members

- Improve campus climate and relationships between underrepresented and majority students on campus

- Enhance engagement opportunities for underrepresented students on campus and in the community

- Increase visibility for outreach to underrepresented community groups

- Reach out to younger underrepresented students, their parents and educators to explain the University of California's A-G requirements and ensure that K-12 schools provide the necessary courses for UC admission

- Ensure funding for student-initiated outreach, yield activities and student space on campus

- Move from comprehensive review to holistic review during the admissions process

- Increase visibility by UC San Diego faculty in the community

Conclusion

We hope that this report and these recommendations will be fully embraced and implemented by the university as the campus moves forward with efforts to improve the yield and retention of underrepresented students at UC San Diego.

Our next goal is to follow-up with the participants of the Educational Summit and other community leaders in order to give an update on the consideration and implementation of these recommendations and the university's progress to enhance the campus climate.