

THE CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY
OFFICE OF THE CHANCELLOR



BAKERSFIELD

CHANNEL ISLANDS

CHICO

DOMINGUEZ HILLS

EAST BAY

FRESNO

FULLERTON

HUMBOLDT

LONG BEACH

LOS ANGELES

MARITIME ACADEMY

MONTEREY BAY

NORTHRIDGE

POMONA

SACRAMENTO

SAN BERNARDINO

SAN DIEGO

SAN FRANCISCO

SAN JOSÉ

SAN LUIS OBISPO

SAN MARCOS

SONOMA

STANISLAUS

May 2009

Open Letter to the Humboldt State Community:

During the spring 2009 term, the six-year review of Rollin C. Richmond, President of Humboldt State University (HSU) was initiated. The review took the form of collecting and summarizing letters from a selection of the campus and external community members and bringing a visiting team to campus in April 2009. The review concluded on May 12, 2009, with a discussion of the review by the CSU Board of Trustees. The Board of Trustees and I appreciate the contributions of those who worked with us on this review.

Criteria established by the Board of Trustees in 1984, and updated in 1994 and 2001, were used to assess the performance of President Richmond and the progress of the institution. These measures included the overall management of the institution, relations on campus and within the system, educational leadership, community relations, major achievements of the campus and the president, and personal characteristics of the president. Faculty, staff, students, alumni, and community representatives were invited to submit written comments responding to the trustees' criteria.

The visiting team was comprised of Dr. Joseph Crowley, President-emeritus, University of Nevada - Reno; Dr. Roberto Haro, Professor-emeritus, César Chávez Policy Institute, San Francisco State University; Mr. Robert Linscheid, Member, CSU Board of Trustees; and Dr. Roy McTarnaghan, President-emeritus, Florida Gulf Coast University. Following advance preparation with resource material, the team conducted one-on-one interviews of a selection of the campus and community on April 20.

The team's conclusions and the written responses are consistent and attest that Rollin Richmond does an effective job as the president of Humboldt State given the circumstances of diminishing resources and general resistance to change.

Before reporting to you about the review, I need to comment on a matter of grave concern. Rollin Richmond is an ethical, competent, and fair person. He carries out the presidency with the characteristics of a proven leader who holds the best interest of the university above any personal gain. The appointment of Robert Snyder as provost is critical to sustaining institutional progress and readiness for the upcoming accreditation visit by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges.

President Richmond and Provost Snyder are deeply committed to the mission of Humboldt State University, to the success of students, to the teaching and learning process, and to supporting teaching and scholarship by faculty members. It is perplexing to the trustees and to me that the HSU academic senate would pass a resolution of no confidence against a university president who is transparent and practices shared governance. This is a very discouraging action. No one is more passionate about Humboldt State than President Rollin Richmond.

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CHICO

Among the notable accomplishments are the following:

DOMINGUEZ HILLS

EAST BAY

- Increasing enrollment to 7,800, the highest level in Humboldt State history from the second lowest point in recent times.

FRESNO

- Modernizing facilities with completion of the Behavioral and Social Sciences building; addition and renovation to the Forbes Athletic Complex; renovations of Gist Hall, Nelson Hall and Science B; constructing the Internet Café in the library; and constructing new entrance gates to the campus

FULLERTON

HUMBOLDT

- Introducing changes to the governance model that includes adding college deans, academic senate chair, budget officer, chief information officer, and special assistant to the president to the University Executive Council

LONG BEACH

LOS ANGELES

- Creating the Jack Pass to ride the Redwood Transit System and for winning the annual *Chill Out: Campus Solutions to Global Warming* award by the National Wildlife Federation.

MARITIME ACADEMY

MONTEREY BAY

- Developing long range plans.

NORTHRIDGE

- Creating the Advancement Foundation as repository of donor funds.

POMONA

- Joining the California Collegiate Athletic Association thus reducing student-athlete travel.

SACRAMENTO

- Establishing the position of director of international programs who struck a relationship with the Xian International Studies University that brought Chinese students to Humboldt State.

SAN BERNARDINO

- Establishing a university liaison position to the region's Native American tribes.

SAN DIEGO

- Winning the 2008 NCAA Division II women's softball tournament.

SAN FRANCISCO

- Being an environmentally conscientious university.

SAN JOSÉ

- Creating the Small Business Development Center and winning the contract to administer ten Small Business Administration centers from Monterey to the Oregon border.

SAN LUIS OBISPO

SAN MARCOS

- Re-establishing a HSU presence in the community through participation in various organizations and assisting the community's economic growth by establishing the Office of Economic and Community Development.

SONOMA

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CHANNEL ISLANDS

CHICO

DOMINGUEZ HILLS

- Increasing awareness of Humboldt State in the community.
- Constructing the hydrogen fueling station as part of the California Hydrogen Highway.

EAST BAY

- Creating an Advising Center that serves students.

FRESNO

FULLERTON

- Leading the CSU effort resulting in an award of \$15.7 million from the California Institute of Regenerative Medicine that includes \$1.63 million for Humboldt State.

HUMBOLDT

- Making academic programs and schedules more efficient.

LONG BEACH

- Responding to the CSU's veteran's initiative, HSU expanded its services and outreach to veterans.

LOS ANGELES

- Establishing the Cabinet for Institutional Change.

MARITIME ACADEMY

- Clarifying the budget process.

MONTEREY BAY

- Addressing concerns raised in the February 2008 visit by WASC.

NORTHRIDGE

POMONA

President Richmond has been orchestrating and implementing the campus responses to issues raised by the WASC visiting team in February 2008 and specific recommendations made by subsequent consultant reports. President Richmond believes in having a strong connection with the community whether it be in employment development, K-16, the environment, or health. He also believes that scholarship by faculty members improves teaching performance.

SACRAMENTO

SAN BERNARDINO

At the CSU system, Dr. Richmond is involved in CSU Program for Education and Research in Biotechnology (CSUPERB), the Council for Ocean Affairs Science and Technology (COAST), and the board of the Agricultural Research Initiative (ARI). He also serves as one of CSU's representatives to the California Council on Science and Technology.

SAN DIEGO

SAN FRANCISCO

SAN JOSÉ

President Richmond and I discussed the review report and identified the following goals for the next few years:

SAN LUIS OBISPO

- Continue the emphasis on student success and support and implement the Graduation Rate Initiative of the Board of Trustees, including monitoring the policies and practices at Humboldt State that will improve retention and graduation rates.

SAN MARCOS

SONOMA

- Continue the outstanding community relations efforts, especially the relationships with the Native American groups.

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CHANNEL ISLANDS

CHICO

- Diversify sources of funds used to support the university.

DOMINGUEZ HILLS

- Continue efforts to build consensus over institutional goals and directions.

EAST BAY

- Continue to grow student enrollment.

FRESNO

- Continue efforts to attain more diversity among students and step-up diversity among the faculty and administration to reflect the demographics of California.

FULLERTON

HUMBOLDT

- Explore more online education opportunities for students.

LONG BEACH

- Develop programs to increase scholarship and research at Humboldt State.

LOS ANGELES

- Be more visible around the campus and consider the advantages of a periodic newsletter to describe the president's activities.

MARITIME ACADEMY

MONTEREY BAY

- Engage the faculty in productive communication and behaviors consistent with shared governance of outstanding universities.

NORTHRIDGE

President Richmond will make substantial progress on completion of these goals. Dr. Richmond is energized by challenge. He thinks critically and strategically for the constant improvement of Humboldt State. Dr. Richmond continues to be a leader of the cultural, intellectual, and social life of the North Coast communities. The California State University and the people of California are proud to have Dr. Rollin Richmond as a university president.

POMONA

SACRAMENTO

SAN BERNARDINO

With kind regards,

SAN DIEGO

Sincerely,

SAN FRANCISCO

SAN JOSÉ

Charles B. Reed
Chancellor

SAN LUIS OBISPO

SAN MARCOS

SONOMA

CBR/wd

STANISLAUS