

UC Regents vote to change the name of UCSD's Undergraduate Sciences Building to the Herbert F. York Undergraduate Sciences Building

July 18, 1991

Contact: Warren R. Froelich, 534-8564

UNDERGRADUATE SCIENCES BUILDING AT UCSD TO BE NAMED THE "HERBERT F. YORK UNDERGRADUATE SCIENCES BUILDING"

The Board of Regents of the University of California today voted to change the name of the Undergraduate Sciences Building at the University of California, San Diego to the "Herbert F. York Undergraduate Sciences Building."

The change, recommended by UC President David P. Gardner and approved by the regents Committee on Grounds and Buildings, is in honor of York's distinguished service at UCSD as its first chancellor and for his leadership as director of the Institute on Global Conflict and Cooperation. It also recognizes his role in the areas of national defense and public policy.

"The naming of the Undergraduate Sciences Building recognizes Professor Herbert York's distinguished scientific career and his outstanding academic and public service," said UCSD Chancellor Richard C. Atkinson.

"As one of this country's leading scientific statesmen, he has frequently represented the United States at international conferences on issues of arm control and disarmament," he added. "As the first chancellor of UCSD, Herb York's intellectual values, academic vision, and the superb job he did in attracting a brilliant starting faculty, helped lay the foundation of today's great university."

The Undergraduate Sciences Building in Revelle College, completed in 1965, was among the first buildings constructed at UCSD. The building contains 69,436 assignable square feet and was designed to support teaching of undergraduate courses in the natural sciences, primarily biology and chemistry. There are teaching laboratories, 13 small classrooms, offices and two lecture halls.

Herbert F. York was born in 1921 in Rochester, New York. He attended the University of Rochester where he was awarded a bachelor's degree in 1942, followed by a master of sciences degree in 1943. That year, he arrived at the University of California, where he joined the staff of the University of California Radiation Laboratory at UC Berkeley and worked on the Manhattan Project at the Y-12 Plant, Oak Ridge, Tennessee.

After World War II, he returned to Berkeley as a graduate student, earning a Ph.D. in 1949. He later became a member of the physics department faculty. From 1952 to March 1958, York directed the Lawrence Livermore Laboratory at the University of California. He became the first chief scientist at the Advanced Research Projects Agency (ARPA) in 1958, and was reappointed to that position by Presidents Eisenhower and Kennedy. From 1958 to 1961, he was director of Defense Research and Engineering with the Department of Defense.

In 1961, York was appointed the first chancellor of the San Diego campus of the University of California. He resigned in 1964 and became successively professor of physics and dean of graduate students at UCSD. He also served as acting chancellor on an interim basis from 1970-1972.

From 1973 to 1988, York was the director of the Program in Science, Technology, and Public Affairs at UCSD. Currently, he is director emeritus of the Institute on Global Conflict and Cooperation, a multi-campus unit of the University of California.

York's scientific distinctions have been widely recognized by learned societies and senior governmental agencies. In 1962, he shared the Ernest Orlando Lawrence Memorial Award of the Atomic Energy Commission. He is a member of the International Academy of Astronautics (1962), a Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences (1971), a former Guggenheim Fellow (1972), and a Fellow of the American Physical Society (1976). He served as a member of the United States General Advisory Committee on Arms Control (1962-69), as U.S. delegation member to the Soviet American ASAT Anti-Satellite Talks (1978-79), and as United States Ambassador to the Comprehensive Test Ban Talks (1979-81).

York is the author of four books, numerous scientific publications and popular public education articles.

(July 18, 1991)