UCSD physics chair Robert C. Dynes named senior vice chancellor for academic affairs

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Note: Photo of Dynes available

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UCSD PHYSICS CHAIR NAMED SENIOR VICE CHANCELLOR FOR ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

Robert C. Dynes, one of the leading authorities on the physics of superconductivity, has been named senior vice chancellor for academic affairs at the University of California, San Diego.

Dynes currently serves as chairman of the UCSD Department of Physics and is a member of the National Academy of Sciences. The UC Board of Regents approved Dynes' appointment to the new post at its May 19 meeting. Dynes will succeed Marjorie Caserio, who is retiring from the position. His appointment is effective Aug. 1, 1995.

Prior to joining UCSD in 1990, Dynes served as director of the Chemical Physics Laboratory at AT&T Bell Laboratories, where he had been employed for more than 20 years. In 1990, Dynes was awarded the Fritz London Prize in Low-Temperature Physics, the top award in his field. The London Prize cited Dynes for his pioneering experimental work on the conduction of electricity in metals.

"Professor Dynes is a distinguished and widely respected physicist," said UCSD Chancellor Richard C. Atkinson. "As Chair of the UCSD Physics Department, he has been an able and skilled administrator. I am pleased he has accepted this important position and welcome his academic leadership."

Dynes said he hopes to increase interdisciplinary interaction between faculty members during his tenure as senior vice chancellor for academic affairs.

"The university of the 21st Century is going to be somewhat different from that of the 20th Century in that in addition to excellence in particular disciplines, there will need to be very strong communication across disciplines," Dynes said. "There are fundamental issues that are facing the nation, such as the environment and health care, that cannot be solved by the conventional departments."

Dynes said he believes UCSD's relative youthfulness will allow it to adapt more quickly to changes in how research is approached.

"Part of the reason I came to UC San Diego was that I was convinced that this campus had the nimbleness and flexibility to go after and address important intellectual problems that were not the traditional and conventional ones," he said.

Dynes said he believes students must also be trained to participate in more interdisciplinary research. "This doesn't mean we will train students to be jack-of-all-trades and masters of none," he said. "We have to continue to train students to be highly focused and highly specialized in their disciplines so that they are world experts in their field."

A native of Ontario, Canada, Dynes received a bachelor's of science degree in physics and mathematics from the University of Western Ontario in 1964. He was awarded a master's of science degree in physics in 1965 and a doctoral degree in physics in 1968 from McMaster University, located in Hamilton, Ontario.

Dynes was appointed head of the Semiconductor and Chemical Physics Research Department in 1974 at AT&T Bell Laboratories. In 1981, he was named head of the Solid State and Physics of Materials Research Department and, in 1983, director of the Chemical Physics Research Laboratory.

Dynes is a member of the American Physical Society and a Fellow of the Canadian Institute for Advanced Research. He serves as vice chair of the Board on Physics and Astronomy for the National Research Council and as a member of the President's Council for the University of California that oversees the management of Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, Los Alamos National Laboratory, and Lawrence Berkeley Laboratory. He serves on advisory boards of the Institute for Theoretical Physics and the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation.

Dynes holds several patents in the area of superconductivity and transport of new materials.

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