

## **\$500,000 saved during first fiscal quarter**

**January 8, 1970**

A savings of nearly half a million dollars - almost 2 percent of the total operating budget for 1969-70 - has been achieved by the various departments and divisions of the University of California, San Diego during the first fiscal quarter.

The savings, a total of \$454,721, have been reported by UCSD to University Vice President Graeme C. Bannerman in its Economy Action Program Report for the first quarter, 1969-70. UCSD's total operating budget for 1969-70 is about \$26 million.

The Economy Action Program was begun under the direction of the Office of the President in the fall of 1967 in an effort to stem the rising cost of higher education and to make better and more efficient use of materials and services already available on the various campuses. Last year administration of the program was turned over to individual campuses. The program developed at UCSD has been recognized by University-wide officers as "an excellent example of a campus program which, in addition to setting specific objectives, stresses employee involvement and recognition."

The UCSD savings, reported by Herman D. Johnson, Vice Chancellor - Business and Finance, include \$396,022 in one-time savings during the fiscal quarter, \$34,368 in continuing savings initiated during the quarter, and \$24,331 in continuing savings initiated in previous quarters. Johnson said a major portion of the one-time savings resulted through the use of surplus material by the Marine Physical Laboratory.

Letters of congratulations have been sent by UCSD Chancellor William J. McGill to the originators of four economy suggestions selected by the campus economy committee as the top contributions submitted during the quarter.

The idea selected as "the outstanding contribution" by the committee was submitted by Richard W. Kern, a marine cook with the Marine Facilities Division.

Kern, through experimentation while on the job, devised a means of keeping produce fresh for up to as long as 60 days on board the various Scripps Institution of Oceanography research ships at sea. Normally, even under the best modern refrigeration facilities, fresh vegetables deteriorate or spoil rapidly and become inedible after about 21 days at sea.

Since most Scripps research ships stay at sea for periods of five to six weeks, replenishment of food supplies, including fresh vegetables, is done at domestic and foreign ports of call. Generally, the quality of fresh vegetables in foreign ports is inferior to U.S. grades and the cost can be as much as three times that in the home port.

Kern, and fellow worker Kenneth Conger, now retired, found that by sealing the fresh vegetables in plastic bags after withdrawing as much air as possible with a domestic vacuum cleaner and then refrigerating them, the vegetables stayed fresh and edible some two to three times longer than under normal refrigeration alone.

Most of the savings resulted from a reduction of spoilage and greater use of U.S. produce purchased more economically through University purchasing procedures. However, according to Kern, there has been an increase

in efficiency of all ship personnel through the maintenance of good health and morale due to balanced diets which include fresh vegetables.

Another suggestion selected as one of the top reports was submitted by James W. Crumm, a senior residence halls manager, who suggested a program of on-the-job training for residence hall matrons. After the training period, employees become eligible for a higher classification.

A suggestion by Robert M. Lum, a buyer in the UCSD Purchasing Department, which developed a new method of renewing annual maintenance contracts with outside vendors, was also selected as one of the best. Much of the savings suggested by Lum were in clerical time such as typing, sorting, distribution of copies and filing.

One of the largest single item savings, which will continue through the years, was suggested by Oscar W. Norr, an assistant business manager with the Office of Auxiliary Enterprises. Norr suggested that the regular semi-monthly cleaning of student rooms in campus residence halls be reduced to one quarterly cleaning and that the students be given easy access to portable vacuums.

By allowing the students to maintain their rooms, a savings of nearly \$44,000 in salaries will be realized during the 1969-70 fiscal year.

A total of 40 reports were submitted to the UCSD Economy Action Program Committee for review. According to Johnson, an interesting spin-off of the program is that in addition to reports of actual savings, there has been enough interest generated throughout the campus so that the committee is also getting suggestions for possible savings if new programs were implemented.

"With this kind of thinking, UCSD should be able to increase the present program to even greater campus savings in the very near future," he said.