

Regents vote to expand faculty and facilities of the La Jolla campus

August 24, 1956

Regents of the University of California have voted to take the necessary steps to expand over a period of years the faculty and facilities of the La Jolla campus, and to provide a graduate program emphasizing science and technology with such undergraduate instruction as is essential to support the graduate program.

The action was taken during the Regents' meeting in Berkeley on Friday (Aug. 24). President Robert Gordon Sproul reported to the Regents these arguments in favor of the proposed expansion:

"1. There is a definite need for expansion of the University's facilities for instruction, research and public service in science and technology in the San Diego area.

"2. Our industrial civilization and our very survival as a country depend critically on increasing the numbers of able young scientists and engineers. The proposed expansion would greatly aid the University in carrying out its responsibilities to the State and the Nation for training of such young people.

"3. Development of the University's activities in San Diego should be carried out by expanding the La Jolla campus, which already contains a center of specialized scientific research and graduate instruction that has received world recognition. In this way the presently considerable and rapidly increasing human and physical resources of the southernmost part of California could best be focused to contribute to the University's effectiveness in service to the State, the Nation and the world.

"4. The expansion at La Jolla should be along lines of natural growth in mathematics, physics, chemistry and the earth and biological sciences.

"5. Although some concern has been expressed that the potential number of graduate students in the sciences would not justify the proposed expansion, consideration of the state and national situations indicates that many able students would be attracted to such a facility, and that this augmentation of the University's program in the sciences would react to the benefit rather than the detriment of the graduate work at Los Angeles and Berkeley. Similarly, the reputation of the University of California and the climatic advantages of San Diego make it likely that a faculty of the highest caliber can be recruited, in spite of the critical shortage of scientists and engineers, without interfering with recruitment at the University's other campuses. Already on the basis of newspaper reports and preliminary discussions concerning the possible expansion, interest in joining the La Jolla staff has been shown by distinguished scientists from Europe and other parts of the United States."

Dr. Roger Revelle, Director of the Scripps Institution, who attended the meeting, said:

"The action today by the Regents of the University of California represents a resounding vote of confidence in the people of San Diego. The Regents have expressed their belief that the human and physical resources of this southernmost part of California can make a major contribution in helping to remedy the desperate shortage of scientists and engineers throughout the country-- one of the most serious problems facing California and the Nation.

"The expansion of the University's activities in this region can be expected to bring great material and cultural benefits to every part of the San Diego community. This development will necessarily have to be carried out carefully and slowly. Generous private endowments and ample public funds will both-be necessary if the new University is to reach full effectiveness.

"In the planning of the development stages we shall rely heavily upon the ideas and the inspirational guidance of our local community leaders. We will want to make sure that the new development helps rather than hinders the already outstanding work of San Diego State College and the other fine higher educational activities in this area. We will want to co-operate closely at all times with President Malcolm Love and the faculty of San Diego State College, with the presidents and faculties of California Western University and San Diego University, and with the City and County Boards of Education and the Junior Colleges.

"The Regents' action today represents a major step in forwarding the ideas and the plans of many San Diego community leaders. Such men as James Archer, Robert Biron, Frederic de Hoffman, Edward Creutz, Charles Critchfield, Philip Anewalt, Arnold Klaus and Captain Henry Bernstein have worked hard and effectively over many months to reach this goal. They have received the enthusiastic support of President Love and other educational leaders in the community, and of the City and County governments."