

Herman D. Johnson awarded the honorary title "vice chancellor emeritus" by the UC Regents

June 24, 1985

Herman D. Johnson, who will retire from his post as vice chancellor--business and finance at the University of California, San Diego after a 37-year career with the University of California has been awarded the honorary title "vice chancellor emeritus" by the UC Board of Regents.

The honor, which is effective upon the date of his retirement, September 30, is in "recognition of his achievements in and contributions to the University of California," according to the Regents.

"Johnson will long be remembered for his sense of fairness, genuine interest, and sensitivity in support of his staff," the Regents said.

UCSD Chancellor Richard C. Atkinson, who announced the honor Monday (June 24), noted that "the orderly and efficient management of rapid growth is one of the most difficult challenges in modern society.

"When that growth takes place in the complex and sophisticated environment of a research university, the challenge is even greater," he said. "Herm Johnson's career here at UCSD exactly matched a period of unprecedented growth.

"That it was so orderly and effective is a lasting tribute to his skill, patience, and understanding," Atkinson added. "The financial, administrative and physical organization of UCSD will serve the university and its faculty, students, and staff for many years to come. We are greatly in his debt."

In 1948, Johnson received the B.S. degree in accounting from the University of California at Berkeley and joined the staff of the Berkeley campus as an accountant. Following brief service (August 1949 to October 1950) with the Lawrence Berkeley Laboratory as assistant to the chief accountant, he returned to the Berkeley campus as senior accountant.

In July 1955, Johnson accepted the position as accounting officer at Scripps Institution of Oceanography, La Jolla. In July 1960, he was appointed accounting officer for the newly established general campus at San Diego. In March 1966, he was promoted to assistant to the vice chancellor--business and finance. In October 1968 he served as acting vice chancellor--administration, and in April 1969 he was appointed to his current position as vice chancellor--business and finance.

As the accounting officer at Scripps, Johnson established all the major business functions including accounting, contract and grant administration, staff personnel, and purchasing.

In 1960, when the general campus was established at San Diego, he adapted and implemented the business structures he had established at Scripps to meet the needs of the general campus. Johnson's influence has benefited all facets of the San Diego campus and the university in general. He was a major force behind the San Diego campus' building program, in particular, with the opening of Revelle College in 1964, John Muir College in 1967, the School of Medicine in 1968, Third College in 1970, and Earl Warren College in 1974.

He was instrumental in the successful negotiations for the San Diego campus to assume the operation of the San Diego County Hospital in 1966, now the UCSD Medical Center.

He has had extensive service on university and community task forces and committees including the University of California Retirement System Governing Board (1970-73), as President of the Western Association of College and University Business Officers (1975-76), and as President of the National Association of College and University Business Officers (1982-83).

Johnson has been an active member of the Torrey Pines Rotary Club for many years, and served as its president in 1976-77.

(June 24, 1985) For more information contact: Paul Lowenberg, 452-3120