

Dr. Gabriel Jackson's statement on UC Budgets

March 26, 1971

Legislative budgets of the last three years and the budget proposed by Governor Ronald Reagan for 1971 are "destroying the quality of the University of California as it developed in the century preceding 1967," Dr. Gabriel Jackson, chairman of the Academic Senate of the University of California, San Diego, said today (Friday, March 26).

Speaking at a luncheon meeting of the La Mesa Kiwanis Club, Jackson said UCSD is today one of the 10 largest universities in the United States in terms of contract research, with funding from federal sources now approximating \$44 million a year.

Jackson said the Academic Senate's recent action in calling for an end to classified research at UCSD and a decrease in "mission-oriented research" had been widely misunderstood, particularly outside San Diego. According to Jackson, reports printed in newspapers elsewhere in the United States "stated flatly that the faculty of UCSD had voted to end all federally funded research."

Such reports were "a tremendous factual error," said Jackson. "The Senate acted on a report by an ad hoc committee which made it very clear that problems of undue influence or of wasted effort and wasted money occur in connection with all outside funded research. No particular agency was singled out in the discussion, and absolutely nothing in the report suggested that the Senate was opposed to the continuation of federally funded research at UCSD.

"One frequently hears questions about the cost of research," said Jackson. "Clearly, fundamental research, whether in the sciences or in the humanities, does not offer a tangible short-term dollar return for the investment made. Here it seems to me that enlightened citizens must think in more long-run terms.

"The United States today is the most powerful nation in a shrinking world. The human race faces staggering problems concerning the quality of life, concerning relations between differing nations and societies. At all levels of society we feel keenly the need to improve the quality of life, both biologic and spiritual. No one can give guarantees that fundamental research will solve particular problems. But the history of great nations in the modern world shows very clearly a general relationship among high standards of education, social investment in scientific and intellectual research, and the improvement of the quality of life."

Calling for improved understanding between "town and gown," Jackson said one major cause of misunderstanding is "the general public notion that somehow the university is responsible for whatever indecorous or undisciplined or politically controversial behavior occurs on the campus.

"I have lived in La Jolla only six years," Jackson continued, "but I know very well instances are numerous in which very conservative, ethically impeccable families have children who move into the drug scene or who engage in flamboyant political activities. The parents of such children surely recognize their own inability to control the activities of persons in their late teens and early 20's. Why should they suppose that professors in the classroom will be able to do what they are unable to do at home?"

Jackson said that "the incidents which excite public attention are indeed but a tiny proportion of the total activity going on the campus. It would be self-defeating to allow irritation with such activities to threaten the ongoing development of a great university."

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