UC SANTA BARBARA

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Foundations for the Future

Following a thorough and collaborative public process that involved multiple agencies and stakeholders both on campus and off, UC Santa Barbara has received unanimous approval from the California Coastal Commission for its Long Range Development Plan (LRDP).

The Board of Regents of the University of California, the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors and the Goleta City Council all previously approved the plan. A comprehensive land-use document, the LRDP will guide campus planning and development through the year 2025.

“On behalf of UC Santa Barbara, I want to express my tremendous appreciation for the approval and thoughtful review by the California Coastal Commission, including Executive Director Charles Lester and his dedicated staff, whose support and wise counsel to UCSB played an integral role in this process,” said Chancellor Henry T. Yang, who attended the commission’s meeting today in Half Moon Bay. “We are extremely grateful to all who collaborated with us on UCSB’s Long Range Development Plan. The collective insight and true partnership provided by so many throughout this process have made our plan even stronger, and ensured that it is in harmony with our neighbors, the California coast and the environment.

“I am also thankful to the County of Santa Barbara and the City of Goleta, as well as to the Metropolitan Transit District, the Goleta Water District and Sanitary District, Sustainable University Now and all of other our community partners who participated,” Yang added. “We have solicited, welcomed and benefited from their

input. Most of all, I would like to sincerely thank our campus community –– our faculty, staff and students, as well as our administrative colleagues –– for the tremendous team effort over many months and years to make this the best possible plan to fulfill our shared vision for the exciting future of UC Santa Barbara."

The university's academic goals are the foundation for the LRDP, which provides a detailed road map for UCSB's potential growth and ensures stringent environmental protections. The document outlines the physical development plan for the campus, from land use and building, to transportation and parking, to open space and landscape, to utilities and infrastructure. It is considered an essential tool as UCSB pursues its overall mission of teaching, research and public service.

"This important achievement will allow us to pursue thoughtful and creative academic planning with the aim of renewing our faculty and making a superb University of California education accessible to more students," said David Marshall, UCSB's executive vice chancellor. "This LRDP will help us to fulfill our potential as a great public research university, contributing to knowledge, education, culture and society."

Kum-Kum Bhavnani, chair of UCSB's Academic Senate and a professor of sociology, agreed: "The LRDP will ensure that UCSB's innovative academic plans for the coming period will be well supported by the physical development of our campus. The Academic Senate is thrilled with this approval by the California Coastal Commission, which ensures that the vitality of our future programs can be realized in the coming decades."

Besides detailing potential new academic buildings — the LRDP is a blueprint for possible projects — the plan provides for enrollment growth of up to 5,000 additional students, including 5,000 new bed spaces for undergraduates. It also features 1,800 faculty and staff housing units.

Sustainability and environmental stewardship are a key component of the plan, which designates as protected open space 590 acres — more than half the university's total 1,117-acre holding. It makes provisions for increased parking and transportation needs, including the enhancement of existing bus lines and funding an entirely new route, plus additional bike paths and stronger pedestrian connections to and from campus. Water usage, habitat restoration, plant materials and native vegetation are also addressed.

The university held 65 public meetings leading up to the plan’s submittal to the California Coastal Commission, inviting and implementing an extraordinary amount of community input. As the plan was being developed, administrators, faculty, staff and student representatives met with community groups, civic leaders and elected officials –– and other UCSB constituents –– to ensure that the final plan would address community concerns while meeting campus needs.

“We feel very good that we’re able to move forward with a plan that does allow the campus and the university to grow but at the same time preserves and protects large chunks of valuable California coastline,” said Marc Fisher, UCSB’s vice chancellor for administrative services. “The final product is one of true collaboration, a reflection of stakeholders on all sides working together to create a plan that works for the university, the Coastal Commission and the community.”

About UC Santa Barbara

The University of California, Santa Barbara is a leading research institution that also provides a comprehensive liberal arts learning experience. Our academic community of faculty, students, and staff is characterized by a culture of interdisciplinary collaboration that is responsive to the needs of our multicultural and global society. All of this takes place within a living and learning environment like no other, as we draw inspiration from the beauty and resources of our extraordinary location at the edge of the Pacific Ocean.