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March 29, 2001

The Honorable Dede Alpert
Chair, Joint Committee to Develop a Master Plan
for Education--Kindergarten through University
State Capitol, Room 5114
Sacramento, California 95814

Dear Senator Alpert:

In testimony to your committee on March 6, California State University Chancellor Charles Reed quoted from 1986 testimony given by former UC Senior Vice President Bill Frazer to the Master Plan Review Commission stating that UC was "eager to explore the expansion of our joint doctorate programs in education with CSU." While the quote is accurate, the interpretation made by Chancellor Reed--that the University of California has failed to live up to commitments it made to the Legislature in 1986--is not.

Dr. Frazer's comment was a brief statement in much longer testimony on the need for graduate education in all disciplines. However, UC's willingness to work with CSU on such programs was not just talk. Former President David Gardner informed the Board of Regents in January 1986 that the California Postsecondary Education Commission had agreed to do a study of the need for doctoral degrees in education and that the CSU Board of Trustees had taken action to seek an independent doctorate, especially the Ed.D. Dr. Gardner committed the University to working with CSU to meet state needs in this area if CPEC identified any such needs. A copy of Dr. Gardner's statement is enclosed.

CPEC's report, released several months after Dr. Frazer's testimony, stated emphatically that no such need existed. It concluded that "no compelling evidence exists that the supply of persons with the doctorate in educational administration will fail to meet demand within the next decade" and went on to recommend that "no new doctoral programs in educational administration be established in any institution not now offering the degree."

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The University did go on to establish a new joint doctoral degree program in Educational Leadership (JDPEL) between Fresno State and UC Davis, however. The JDPEL program has become enormously successful in producing educational leaders up and down the Central Valley, an educationally underserved area of the state. The JDPEL's collaborative character makes it a much stronger program than if it were offered by CSU alone.

I go into this detail not only to correct the record on UC's actions regarding the Ed.D. There are also some parallels worth noting between the today's situation and that in the 1980s. In the mid-80s, the CSU system proposed legislation to give it authority to award joint doctoral degrees with out-of-state institutions or independently, but having no definitive evidence supporting such a need, CSU then sponsored a separate bill to ask CPEC to study the need for applied joint doctoral degrees. UC agreed to such a study and to helping meet any demand it might bring to light.

Like that earlier study, last year's CPEC report on the Ed.D. concluded that supply is adequate to meet demand for another decade. While CSU raised issues with how the conclusions were characterized, it did not object to the methodology CPEC used in conducting the study. Specifically, CPEC 1) identifies a pool of 595 new doctorates in education in California each year, 2) estimates that 28 percent, or 167, might go into K-12 (based on the percent of a prior cohort working for K-12) and 3) points out that K-12 needs to hire only 100-110 per year to maintain current percentages of administrators with doctorates. This does not even take into account that incentives could attract more than 28 percent into K-12 and that current percentages include doctorates in other disciplines as well as education.

Just as we did in the 1980s, however, UC agrees with CSU that there are certain areas of need -- both in terms of geographic access and program focus -- that require some increase in the number of education doctorates offered by public institutions in California. That is why I have committed UC to expansion of both CSU/UC and UC doctoral degree programs in educational leadership. There is no evidence, however, that would justify the large-scale expansion of this degree that would result if CSU were given independent authority to offer it. And it is reasonable to assume that CSU's motivation to pursue joint doctoral programs will diminish considerably if it has independent authority to offer the education doctorate -- at a time when CSU and UC need to create closer collaborative relationships to help with the pressing need to improve California's schools.

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My February 7th letter to you details UC's commitment to meeting whatever demand exists for the Ed.D., to working with CSU to meet that demand, and to looking at educational leadership in a broader context by creating a new California Institute for Educational Leadership. Planning for expansion of doctoral degree programs and the Institute is moving ahead within the University and is a high priority for us.

I hope this background is useful to you and the members of your committee in your deliberations, and that you will let me know if I can provide any further information. We look forward to working with you and with CSU on this issue of importance to California.

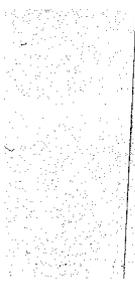
Sincerely,

/s/ Richard C. Atkinson

Richard C. Atkinson
President

Enclosure

cc: Members, Joint Committee to Develop a Master Plan for Education--
Kindergarten through University
Members, Senate Education Committee
Members, Assembly Education Committee
Members, Assembly Higher Education Committee
Chancellor Reed
Assistant Vice President Arditti



STATEMENT ON DEMAND FOR THE DOCTORAL

DEGREE IN EDUCATION

Regents' Meeting

David P. Gardner, President
University of California

January 16, 1986
San Francisco

At the November meeting of The Regents, I reported that the Board of Trustees of The California State University had taken action seeking authority for CSU independently to offer the Doctorate degree, especially the Ed.D degree. At the December 10, 1985 Statutory Advisory Committee meeting of the California Postsecondary Education Commission (CPEC), Director Callan announced that CPEC would study the demand for such a degree from a State perspective. To some extent, this study will look at doctoral offerings in Education generally, as it will be impossible to discuss the development of the Ed.D. degree, or the current demand for it, without considering the Ph.D. as well.

The report will analyze demand for the degree primarily in terms of the need for professional preparation and development of key personnel in California's school system.

The study will also examine the contributions made by the independent universities currently offering this degree in California, and the willingness of the public segments to help address whatever unmet need is found to exist. It is

anticipated that the report will be submitted to CPEC at its meeting on July 20, 1986.

I believe that it is entirely appropriate that CPEC perform this study. The University of California welcomes CPEC's decision to do so and pledges its full cooperation and assistance throughout. The CPEC results will guide UC's planning in this matter as, we assume, they will CSU's.

Should the CPEC report identify unmet State need in this educational area, I will then suggest that Chancellor Reynolds and I together appoint a joint committee of faculty members and administrators from CSU and UC, and others as appropriate, to investigate how the two universities, working together, can meet such State needs by expanding programs under the joint doctorate-granting authority given to UC and CSU by the current Master Plan for Higher Education.