Sept. 12, 2003

Dear neighbor,

I am pleased to tell you about plans now underway at the Berkeley campus to create a new Long Range Development Plan. This is a particularly important plan because it will guide the campus’s land use and physical development from 2005 through 2020.

Community participation is vital for this process because the campus and what happens there plays such a large role in the life of the city. More than 70 percent of UC Berkeley students live in the city’s neighborhoods, more than half of campus faculty make their homes here, and 40 percent of everyone who works on campus lives in the city. Almost everyone in Berkeley has some connection to the campus, whether you come for a concert, a game or a lecture – or just to enjoy the campus’s beautiful park-like surroundings.

I encourage you to learn more about the Long Range Development Plan and share your thoughts with us about the scope of the new plan by attending a Sept. 22 community meeting or sending your comments to us by letter or e-mail.

The University of California Board of Regents requires each of the 10 UC campuses to create a new Long Range Development Plan every 15 to 20 years. We see this as an opportunity as well as obligation.

We want to preserve the qualities that make the campus community such a wonderful place to learn, teach, work, and visit. The new plan must also provide us with a sound strategy to grow, to adapt, and to fulfill our basic missions — our promise to provide the state’s top students with the best education possible and conduct important, cutting-edge research in the public interest.

I believe we are off to a good start. Over the last few years, while working on the New Century Plan and the Strategic Academic Plan, committees of faculty, students, staff and administrators explored facility planning and academic planning issues with the campus community and our neighbors during a series of public meetings.
The Strategic Academic Plan and the New Century Plan will form the foundation of the 2020 Long Range Development Plan.

As we begin work on the actual 2020 plan we want to hear from you. I encourage you to attend the Sept. 22 public meeting at the Krutch Theater of the Clark Kerr Campus, 2601 Warring St., in Berkeley. We invite you to offer your comments on the scope of issues to be addressed in the 2020 plan and its Environment Impact Report. Please stop by at any time between 5:00 and 9:00 that evening.

I also encourage you to learn more about the 2020 plan by visiting our Web site: http://lrdp.berkeley.edu. It provides an overview of the review process, links to relevant documents and reports, an overview of the conceptual foundation for the plan, key dates, and more.

As you may know from reading the flyers, press release, Cal Neighbors story, and other communications the campus has issued on this matter, the official public comment period for this initial phase of the LRDP process opened on Aug. 29 and will conclude on Sept. 29. If you cannot attend the Sept. 22 community meeting please send written comments about the scope of the new LRDP and its Environmental Impact Report to Jennifer Lawrence, Capital Projects, 1936 University Ave., Suite 300, University of California, Berkeley, Berkeley, CA, 94720-1382. E-mailed comments may be sent to 2020LRDP@cp.berkeley.edu.

After the initial public comment period closes at the end of the month, the university will begin work on a draft 2020 LRDP, which will be completed and available for your review in spring 2004. The final LRDP and environmental analysis is scheduled to go to the UC Regents for consideration in late 2004.

In creating a 2020 Long Range Development Plan we have an opportunity to preserve and enhance the look and feel of our extraordinary community and also a solemn obligation to ensure that this university will continue to meet the needs, and even exceed the expectations, of generations to come.

Sincerely,

Robert M. Berdahl
Chancellor