

**ACADEMIC COUNCIL SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON LAB ISSUES  
ANNUAL REPORT 2008-2009**

**TO THE ASSEMBLY OF THE ACADEMIC SENATE:**

**Plutonium Pits Production**

As a follow-up to the Academic Assembly's 2008 Resolution on Plutonium Pits, ACSCOLI continued to monitor the Labs manufacture of Plutonium Pits. For the record, in his October 20, 2009 letter, President Yudof related to Academic Council Chair Mary Croughan that LANL delivered seven pits in FY 2008 (October 1, 2007 to September 30, 2008); LLNL does not produce any plutonium pits.<sup>1</sup>

**Organizational Assessment/Options of the NNSA/Stimson Center Task Force**

ACSCOLI discussed at length the possibility that the administration of the Labs (LANL, LLNL), which is currently under the National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA), might be eventually transferred to the Department of Defense (DoD). This prospect was raised by the OMB Passback, which directed a DOE/DoD study of organizational options for the NNSA, as well as the independent Stimson Report<sup>2</sup>. The DOE/DoD study, which is due in September 2009, will assess the costs and benefits of transferring budget and management of NNSA or its components to DoD (or elsewhere, as appropriate), beginning in FY 2011. Members made a number of points. Much like the DOE, the Labs' portfolio contains a significant amount of energy research; it makes sense to keep them with the larger construct of the DoE. Second, given that the DoD may not understand much of the basic research that the Labs regularly perform, substantial damage to the Labs' research mission could be incurred. Third, rather than moving the Labs wholesale to the DoD, it would make more sense to define a national mission for nuclear weapons. Finally, the committee opined that although the Labs would be placed under the Secretary of Defense (a civilian, not a military, position), the association between the University and the DoD would be problematic from a public relations perspective.

**Laboratory Management Office's Paper, "Benefits of the Labs to the University and the Nation"**

ACSCOLI provided feedback on a working draft of this paper, which was being developed by Lab Management for President Yudof. While members felt that the paper concisely documented a number of the key benefits that the Labs make to both the University and the Nation, the question should be asked as to the benefits accrued to both the University and the Nation as a result of UC *managing* the laboratories. Members also opined that we should ask how the University's management of the Labs enables the nation to leverage the power and prestige of UC to bring top talent internationally into the Labs..

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<sup>1</sup> For more information, see the enclosed October 20, 2008 Letter from UC President Mark Yudof to Academic Council Chair Mary Croughan.

<sup>2</sup> , Frances Fragos Townsend, Co-Chair; Lt. Gen. (Ret.) Donald Kerrick, Co-Chair; Elizabeth Turpen, Ph.D., Project Director; March 2009.

### **Morale at the Labs**

Over the course of the year, ACSCOLI remained concerned about ongoing morale issues at all of the Labs; these concerns centered on procurement/safety restrictions, as well as recruitment and retention of talented junior and senior Lab personnel.

### **Presentations by the Principal Associate Directors of the Labs**

At its July 2009 meeting, ACSCOLI heard presentations on the “Strategic Vision and Planning” on the respective Labs from: Terry Wallace, LANL Principal Associate Director for Science, Technology and Engineering; Tomas Diaz de la Rubia, LLNL Acting Principal Associate Director for Science and Technology; and Paul Alivisatos, LBNL Interim Director.

### **Acknowledgements**

ACSCOLI would also like to honor the hard work and dedication of its former committee members who stepped down this past year: John Oakley (UCD), Larry Pitts (UCSF), Michael T. Brown (former Council Chair), Pat Conrad (UCPB), and James Carey (UCORP). Likewise, the committee is indebted to the service that Admiral Robert Foley (who retired in December 2009) and John Birely (who retired in August 2009) have provided to ACSCOLI over the years. Their insights and knowledge were invaluable. The committee also is grateful to have had valuable input from and dialogue with the following consultants at UCOP and the campuses over the past year: Elaine Stamman; Vice President for Research and Graduate Affairs Steven Beckwith; Executive Vice President Bruce Darling; General Counsel Bill Eklund; William Frazer Chair of LANS/LLNL S & T Committee; Ron Nelson Executive Director, Contracts & Administration in Laboratory Management; Robert Van Ness Associate Vice President for Lab Management; and Larry Pitts Interim Provost.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Croughan, Chair (Council Chair)	Eugene Haller (UCB)
Henry Powell (Council Vice Chair)	Daniel L. Simmons (UCD)
Michael T. Brown (Past Council Chair)	James Carey (UCORP Chair/UCD)
Clare Yu (UCI)	Patricia Conrad (UCPB Chair/UCD)
Michael Colvin (UCM)	Todd Giedt (Committee Analyst)