

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA ACADEMIC SENATE

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University of California
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August 8, 2006

**WYATT R. HUME
PROVOST AND EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT-ACADEMIC AFFAIRS**

Re: Irvine and Riverside Law School Proposals

Dear Rory,

I am pleased to inform you of the Academic Council's endorsement of the proposed law schools at both UC Irvine and UC Riverside. Our endorsement is based on the recommendations of the Coordinating Committee on Graduate Affairs (CCGA), which, in accordance with the Standing Orders of the Regents and the terms of the Universitywide Processes for Academic Programs, Academic Units, and Research Units, has reviewed both the UCI and the UCR proposals.

Council agrees with CCGA that for both Irvine and Riverside the establishment of a law school is warranted by campus growth, community demographics, and student demand. In each instance as well, a law school would complement existing academic programs. CCGA's formal comments are enclosed.

Please forward this position of the Academic Council to President Dynes for consideration in making his recommendations to The Regents.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "John Oakley".

John Oakley, Chair
Academic Council

Copy: Academic Council
Senate Director Bertero-Barceló
Encl: 1

JO:bd

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COORDINATING COMMITTEE ON GRADUATE AFFAIRS (CCGA)
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June 15, 2006

JOHN OAKLEY, CHAIR
ACADEMIC COUNCIL

RE: Law School Proposals

Dear John,

At its June 6, 2006 meeting, CCGA reviewed the law school proposals from both UC Irvine (UCI) and UC Riverside (UCR). In conducting its review, committee members evaluated the proposals on two critical questions. First, have the law school proposals changed since their original approval in 2001? And second, do the current proposals still fit with the academic units and programs at each campus?

UCR makes a solid argument for the establishment of a first-rate law school on its campus. The original proposal was developed by a blue-ribbon panel and enjoys the wide-spread support of the faculty. UCR has only needed to make small revisions to the original proposal. CCGA observed that many of the conditions that precipitated the submission of the original proposal not only still exist, but have intensified. Chief among these is the strong population growth that the surrounding region (commonly referred to as the 'Inland Empire') has experienced, along with the emergence of a number institutions and buildings associated with law, such as the Riverside Justice Center. The law school would also build relationships with other departments and programs on campus in such areas as science (and especially environmental science), international studies, and culture (social sciences and humanities).

The situation at UCI is similar. Both demographics and need support the creation of a new law school there. There is considerable demand for law education in Southern California, and UCI places emphasis on providing access to both legal services and legal education to traditionally under-served populations. Given that these conditions have only been exacerbated since 2001, UCI did not need to revise the original proposal, but it did modify its supporting documents. A law school also fits well within the cognate programs and departments on the campus. There are inter-disciplinary connections planned with criminology, law and society, social ecology, social sciences, business, engineering, information and computer sciences, and humanities. Since 2001, this favorable synergy has grown even stronger with the significant growth of the Paul Merage School of Management, the establishment of a Center for Psychology and Law, as well as a number of new faculty hires in psychology and law.

Members argued that both of these campuses are expanding, and a law school on both those campuses would complement their diverse program offerings. CCGA therefore reiterates its strong support for the law school proposals from both UC Irvine and UC Riverside. We anticipate that there will eventually be law schools on both campuses, and we do not take a position on the relative timing of their establishment.

Respectfully submitted,

Duncan Lindsey

Duncan Lindsey
Chair, CCGA

cc: CCGA
Executive Director Bertero-Barcelo