Letter from CSU Chancellor Charles B. Reed

Open Letter to the Cal Poly Community:

The Board of Trustees CSU has a policy requiring its presidents to be reviewed every three years. It is now time for the review of Dr. Warren J. Baker, President of California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo, to be conducted.

This process is intended to provide feedback to the Board of Trustees and the Chancellor about the leadership of President Baker and the current state of affairs at Cal Poly. It should also provide information that will further the university’s progress and assist President Baker in the leadership of Cal Poly.

As has been the policy and practice in the past, a number of officers of the university and the chairs of its major constituencies, namely, the Academic Senate, the Alumni Association and the Associated Students, and the University Advisory Board, are being contacted for their comments with respect to specific criteria, which are cited below. A sampling of faculty, administrators/managers, staff, and community is also being invited to submit individual comments.

It is CSU policy to inform the university community of the review and to allow anyone not selected on an ex-officio or random basis to submit comments that respond to the specific criteria. The criteria are posted at www.calstate.edu/datastore/PresCriteria.shtml on the CSU website. Those wishing to submit confidential letters should keep in mind that every effort should be made to address the criteria and that neither unsigned letters nor petitions will be accepted. Please do so no later than November 15, 2006, addressed as follows:

Dr. Charles B. Reed, Chancellor
The California State University
401 Golden Shore, Suite 641
Long Beach, CA 90802-4210

The written responses will be summarized into a confidential report that will be discussed with Dr. Baker. The report will be presented to the Board of Trustees. None of the commentators will be identified by name, and responses will be treated in confidence to the extent permitted by the law. After the Trustees receive the report, a general summary will be prepared for release to the campus community.

Please keep in mind that this is intended to be a constructive process that should benefit the presidency and the university.

With kind regards,
Charles B. Reed
2007 annual limits for 403(B), 401(K) and 457 plans
Effective Jan. 1, 2007, the annual dollar limit will be raised for the 403(b) Tax Sheltered Annuity program, the 401(k) Thrift Plan, and the 457 Deferred Compensation program. The maximum contribution for all 3 plans will be $15,500, or 100% of adjusted gross income, whichever is the lesser of the two. Participants who have reached age 50 by the end of the plan year and are eligible to contribute $15,500 may defer an additional $5,500 (for a total of $21,000).

Contributions to a 457 plan are not offset by contributions to a 403(b) or 401(k) plan. For example, for tax year 2007, a participant could elect to contribute up to $15,500 to a 401(k) or 403(b) plan AND up to $15,500 to a 457 plan, for a total contribution of up to $31,000.

More information on the annual dollar limit may be obtained through the following website http://www.calstate.edu/Benefits/retirement/retirement.page.shtml. For specific information, employees should consult with their tax advisor.

Please note that the 2007 tax year will begin with the paycheck dated Jan. 1, 2007 (for the Dec. pay period). In order to enroll in or make a change to the tax sheltered/deferred plans, forms must be received by the end of the month prior to the pay period of the deduction change (for example, Nov. 30 is the deadline for Dec. pay period changes).

To make a change to your 403(b) plan, complete a Salary Reduction Agreement located on the Human Resources website at http://www.afd.calpoly.edu/hr/benefits/Benefitforms.htm#TSA or contact Human Resources at ext 6-5436. The completed form should be sent to Human Resources, Administration Building, Room 110.

To enroll or make a change to your 457 or 401(k) plan, contact the Savings Plus Program directly at (866) 566-4777, or visit their website at http://www.sppforu.com. You may also obtain information via the Department of Personnel Administrator's web page at http://www.dpa.ca.gov.

Los Osos van pool available
The Los Osos van pool has openings and is available to faculty and staff in Los Osos, Morro Bay, Cayucos, and Cambria. For more information, call John Rau at ext. 6-7331.

Volunteers needed to lead Parents’ Hike Oct. 21
Parents Weekend planners are calling on volunteers to help with one of the more popular events, the Parents’ Hike to the “P” on Saturday morning, Oct. 21. The hike scheduled from 9 a.m.-10:30 a.m. and led by Dr. Steve Marx, emeritus faculty member from the English Department, who edited Cal Poly Land, is full. There are enough people on the waiting list to start a second hike at 9:15 a.m. Please contact Nona (Nicky) Nickelsen, Cal Poly Parent Program Coordinator, at calpolyparent@calpoly.edu or ext. 6-7301, if you are a faculty or staff member who likes to hike; has some knowledge about Cal Poly's flora or history, enjoys parents, and is available and willing to be a guide.