

**Memo to:** University Community  
**From:** President Warren J. Baker  
**Re:** Enrollment Growth

At the California State University trustees' meeting on Sept. 12-13, a preliminary report and proposal on the manner in which the CSU would meet the anticipated enrollment demands 15 years into the future was presented as an information item. It's anticipated that the trustees will take action on this enrollment proposal at the Oct. 31 - Nov. 1 meeting. Media coverage relative to the report would give one the impression that a proposed ceiling enrollment increase for Cal Poly to 20,000 FTE (Fulltime Equivalent) is in conflict with and contrary to the report and recommendations which the campus submitted last spring. That is not the case.

The campus community is aware that we initiated a review of the potential long-term enrollment future for Cal Poly during the 1987-88 academic year. The results of that study, embraced in reports adopted by the Academic Senate in March and the Academic Deans' Council in early April of 1988, indicated that Cal Poly should plan for an enrollment increase to approximately 17,400 academic year FTE in the year 2005-2006. Simultaneous with the university's review of this issue, the Legislature directed that the California Postsecondary Education Commission initiate a statewide study to assess the enrollment demand implications for all of higher education in California. As a result of that initiative, the California State University implemented an internal review of the methods available for the system to accommodate an anticipated enrollment increase of

some 160,000 FTE students 15 years into the future.

In response to a request from the system's enrollment growth committee, the university submitted a proposal in April of 1989 based upon the reports of the previous year of the Academic Senate and the Academic Dean's Council. Specifically, in response to the question of our estimated enrollment for the year 2005-2006, the campus' response indicated "Cal Poly proposes an increase of academic year FTE from its current level of 14,300 to 17,400." While the campus' current budgeted FTE enrollment is 14,300, the current enrollment cap, as authorized by the trustees in 1972, is 15,000 FTE and the campus made the decision two years ago to move forward to its ceiling enrollment of 15,000 FTE as soon as physical facilities were available to do so.

In the process of developing the long-range enrollment potential for the California State University, the system task force looked at a number of alternatives and included, as reflected in its report to the trustees, that the enrollment increases could best be accomplished through a combination of establishing several new campuses and increasing the ceiling enrollments at several of the existing campuses, including Cal Poly. At the same time, because of a number of factors involved in the development of physical facility master plans and the required environmental impact reports associated with these, the system proposes to increase the ceiling enrollments only in 5,000 FTE increments and

thus the proposal for Cal Poly's ultimate ceiling enrollment to 20,000 academic year FTE. It should be emphasized, that the 20,000 FTE is not an enrollment target but is an enrollment ceiling or cap that would apply beyond the year 2005. The enrollment figures utilized for Cal Poly in calculating the manner in which the enrollment growth would be accommodated within the CSU in 2005 was the 17,400 FTE as proposed by the university.

As noted in campus decisions earlier and as reflected in this communication, for the campus to go beyond the current enrollment ceiling of 15,000, a totally revised physical master plan will have to be developed and an environmental impact report prepared on the implications of this potential enrollment increase. Not only will the need for new instructional facilities to accommodate these increases have to be addressed, but the need for parking, traffic circulation and ancillary facilities including campus student housing will have to be assessed. The campus has already initiated a request to the Chancellor's Office for funding from systemwide planning funds in the 1990-91 budget to be used for initiating the physical master plan revision and related environmental impact report activity. In addition, the campus is currently actively pursuing possible alternatives with regard to increasing in some manner on-campus student housing in an attempt to address the current student housing needs.