President: Charter is a chance to innovate

When Chancellor Barry Munitz suggested that Cal Poly make itself into a charter campus, I thought the matter, although not clearly defined, was worth exploring. Here seemed to be an opportunity for us to build upon our considerable strengths to create a model university, unique in its efficiency and educational excellence.

Charter, as the term is used here, should not be equated exactly with chartered public schools. For us, creating a charter is a chance to explore exciting innovations which all constituents on campus — faculty, staff, and students — have a clear voice in creating.

In effect, we are being asked to imagine an ideal university and to work together toward this ideal. Much of the charter discussion that followed the chancellor’s suggestion has necessarily addressed abstract concepts as we wrestled with this unique idea, but I would like to suggest here ways a charter will provide important, practical benefits. These benefits will lead to improvements in the broad educational mission of the university.

First, at this time Cal Poly must assert the uncommon qualities that set us apart from other CSU campuses and make us eligible for charter status. Owing to the polytechnic nature of this university, we require funding per student that is considerably higher than the CSU average. And we need to persuade those holding the purse strings that we have earned special consideration in order to keep our margin of excellence.

Making Cal Poly into a charter campus, with the diverse opportunities as well as the accountability that this implies, would go a long way to help us argue that our status requires special, and deserved, support.

But the charter would do more for us than simply demonstrate our distinction when we are compared to our sister institutions.

Creativity — new ideas and new approaches to education — flourishes best in an environment of growth, a time when new faculty can be hired and new resources invested.

Growth can come from its traditional source: larger enrollments bring additional revenue from the state’s general fund. And we should be ready to expand our enrollment modestly as the state’s economy improves, keeping in mind, however, that tax support for higher education will probably not return to its previous levels.

To convince the state to keep our funding levels above the CSU average — or even to add to these levels as money becomes available — we must find ways to improve our operation and then demonstrate our particular efficiency and excellence by pointing to our quality education, our higher retention and graduation rates, and our greater diversity.

While the charter may not be essential for us to make all of these advancements, it will assist us by providing the freedom necessary for greater creativity, flexibility, and change.

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New ‘Forum’ section invites your letters

The Cal Poly Report is now open to all faculty and staff members as a “Campus Forum” to comment on issues facing the university.

With the publication of President Baker’s statement on the charter appearing in this issue, the Report begins the Campus Forum section to improve campuswide communication. Copy deadlines have been changed to give you time to read something in one issue and respond in the next.

While continuing to publish news and announcements, the Report will frequently carry, in the Forum section, position statements by campus leaders. Next week’s issue, for example, will expand the charter discussion with brief articles by the academic vice president, the Academic Senate chair, the Staff Council chair, and the ASI president.

We invite responses to Campus Forum articles, as well as statements from the entire campus community on other topics. Send letters with the author’s name, department, and campus phone number to Campus Forum, Cal Poly Report, Heron Hall, by 1 pm Monday for publication Friday.

For other changes in the Report’s schedule, see the article on page 3.

If space doesn’t allow for immediate publication of all letters received, some will be held for a later issue. Letters also might be edited for style, length and clarity. Short letters, fewer than 100 words, are preferred. Short letters, submitted early, are best. If several similar letters are received, the editors will select which to publish.

Female athletes to convene Feb. 5

Local athletes will join Cal Poly women athletes on Saturday, Feb. 5, in an event designed to break down the barriers against girls and women in sports.

The celebration of National Girls and Women in Sport Day runs from 8 am to noon in Mustang Stadium. Inspired by the death of U.S. volleyball superstar Flo Hyman eight years ago, the event begins with a run/walk/stroll through campus, ending with a race-like finish on the track.

Those attending will be able to run, kick, spike, or throw in demonstrations with Cal Poly All-American female athletes in eight different sports.

In addition, guided tours of the Rec Center will be given, and information booths on girls’ and women’s community sports programs will be set up.

Track and field Olympians Mary Onyali and Sue Rembao and Los Osos resident Alma “Ziggy” Ziegler, a player for the Grand Rapids Chicks of the Girls Professional Baseball League in the ‘40s, will be in attendance.

The first 500 people to sign up for $10 will receive a T-shirt. The cost without a T-shirt is $5.

For more information, call Laura Fawcett at ext. 1407.

Diversity issues discussed Feb. 8

Multicultural and diversity issues in the classroom will be presented by a panel at noon Tuesday, Feb. 8, in the Staff Dining Room as part of a series of Faculty Instructional Development Opportunity programs.

The panel, coordinated by Patricia Davidman of the University Center for Teacher Education, will include two teams of UCTE faculty members. The instructors will talk about their recent experiences at nationwide workshops organized by San Diego State University’s Multicultural Education Infusion Center. The center is a nationwide network of universities working to include multicultural and multilingual curricula in education programs.

Panelists will share their reactions to and reflections on the workshop, tell how they have applied what they learned, and how other faculty members might use the workshop information.

For more information on the FIDO presentation, call George Stanton at ext. 6508.

Volunteers needed for ‘Stone Soup’ event

Anyone interested in volunteering at the 2nd annual Stone Soup multicultural festival is invited to a planning meeting at 5 pm Wednesday, Feb. 9, at the San Luis Obispo County Arts Council offices, 1160 Marsh Street in San Luis Obispo.

The eight-day event, from Sept. 17 through Sept. 24, will feature local and touring professional artists in theater, dance, and music performances throughout the county.

The festival is sponsored by the Arts Council and Cal Poly Arts.

For more information call ext. 6556 or 544-9251.

A free vanpool ride for South County folk

State and foundation employees who live in the South County and the Santa Maria area are invited to try one of the Cal Poly vanpools for free.

The vans arrive at 8 am (leaving at 5 pm) and 7:30 am (leaving at 4 pm).

Riding the van saves money, eliminates parking hassles, and eases driving fatigue. Call Commuter Services at ext. 6680 for a free trial ride pass.

Academic Senate accepting nominations

Nominations to the Academic Senate are being accepted for the 1994-96 term.

Each college needs to elect senators to fill vacant positions. Nominations must include a signed statement of intent to serve.

In addition, the following colleges or areas need to fill vacancies on the committees listed:

- Architecture and Environmental Design, Business, Liberal Arts, Science and Mathematics, and Professional Consultative Services have vacancies on the Academic Senate Research Committee and University Professional Leave Committee (UPLC). The Research Committee and UPLC are elected committees.
- Agriculture, Business, and Liberal Arts need representatives on the Program Review and Improvement Committee (PRAIC). Members of the PRAIC are nominated by their college caucus and elected by the Academic Senate Executive Committee.
- One vacancy to the statewide Academic Senate for the 1994-1997 term also needs to be filled.

Nomination forms are available from the Academic Senate office, Room 143 in the Math and Home Economics Building, and are due by 5 pm, Friday, Feb. 11.

The elections for senators will be held during Winter Quarter.

For more information on any of these positions, call the Academic Senate office at ext. 1258.

Women’s club to hold Feb. 8 meeting

The Cal Poly Women’s Club will hold a general meeting at 10 am Tuesday, Feb. 8, at the home of Pat Iqbal. Come hear Dennis Kish talk about the Performing Arts Center.

For the address and directions, call Imelda Gentile at 549-9249.
President: Charter is a chance to innovate

(continued from page 1)

Under a charter, university growth can be achieved in another, more innovative way: The private sector is asking higher education for new, specialized degree programs, and if allowed to offer these programs, Cal Poly could realize substantial income owing to the competitive fee structure found in this market.

For example, UCLA's Executive MBA program, which is wholly fee-supported, charges annual tuition up to $22,000 to students who attend courses through corporate sponsorship.

Cal Poly could convert its Engineering Management Program or the recently proposed professional graduate degree in architecture into something approaching the UCLA model. Other popular courses or professional degrees not currently available from California's public institutions could be established in agriculture, business, public administration, and teacher education.

Faculty with requisite expertise are already in place to support these programs, and the considerable revenue they would generate beyond their costs could be used to improve the university in scores of ways.

Along similar lines, faculty could have flexibility under the charter to create the means to offer their knowledge to the private sector through distance-learning technologies. Faculty and students could foster public and private partnerships, perhaps in the form of applied research centers, and advance the development of intellectual properties.

Under the charter, presently dormant resources including campus land and facilities could be tapped for the benefit of the university. For example, the low debt-to-equity ratio of the residence halls could be leveraged to provide us with funds for the creation of a professional conference center or a leadership training facility.

As for local autonomy, Cal Poly has always sent a greater portion of its student fees to the CSU financial aid office than we receive back for local student aid. If we had authority to manage this money, perhaps we could help our own students more, or funds might be used to further campus goals such as achieving greater diversity.

In addition, if Cal Poly were allowed to broker its own contracts with computer companies, we could make affordable computers available for every student on campus, helping those with limited resources through special grants.

And the charter would allow us to set and retain our own parking fees!

I have given here a range of examples that focus primarily on what a charter might do for Cal Poly financially, but I hope these ideas are seen as pointing to only one of the many directions the campus could take in extricating itself from unnecessary codes and regulations. Faculty will find exciting possibilities for the university's academic future under a charter, possibilities advanced by the economic autonomy we would enjoy.

As for what a charter will not do, it will not abolish tenure or set aside collective bargaining agreements; it will not undermine employee insurance and retirement benefits. Further, it will not diminish the governing authority that rests with elected faculty, staff, and student groups. In terms of academic orientation, Cal Poly will remain a comprehensive university with a polytechnic emphasis.

I know some on campus have been frustrated by the charter process because we are trying to define a concept that is so amorphous; we have undertaken the creation of something for which there is no distinct model. But the charter, owing to its enormous potential benefits for Cal Poly, needs to be written and ratified by the campus at large; for obvious reasons it cannot exist as a mandate from the administration.

While not dismissing the need for wide debate and the expression of critical judgments from all sides, I nevertheless ask the campus to come together in a climate of patience, trust, and common purpose as we struggle to compose this important and far-reaching document.

Warren J. Baker, President

Associate VP

Interviews set

The three remaining finalists for the position of associate vice president for academic resources will have interviews on campus, and interested employees are invited to meet them at question-and-answer sessions from 10 to 11 am on:

- Monday, Feb. 7, UU 219 - Irma Guzman Wagner, associate dean for administrative affairs, College of Education, San Jose State University.
- Tuesday, Feb. 8, UU 216 - Hoda Mahmoudi, associate dean for academic affairs, California Lutheran University.
- Wednesday, Feb. 9, UU 216 - A. Charles Crabb, interim associate vice president for academic resources at Cal Poly.

Report (and deadline) are moving to Friday

Beginning with the next issue, the Cal Poly Report will come out on Fridays.

The regular deadline to submit articles will shift to Friday at 1 pm. So for the next edition, to be distributed Feb. 11, the deadline will be 1 pm tomorrow -- Friday, Feb. 4.

The special deadline for letters for the new Campus Forum section (see story on page 1), will be 1 pm Monday for that same week's Report.
Retirement planning workshop scheduled
A representative from the Public Employees' Retirement System (PERS) will be in San Luis Obispo to conduct Retirement Planning Workshops during the week of March 14.
Attendance is by reservation only. To reserve a space, call the PERS Los Angeles area office at (213) 897-0917 by Friday, Feb. 18.

Reception for Keihn
The campus is invited to an Alumni House reception from 2 to 4 pm Tuesday, Feb. 8, to honor Sue Keihn of student affairs. Keihn is leaving March 1 for a position in the University of Wisconsin.

Ernest Miller, 75
Ernest C. Miller, who taught in the Business Administration and Management departments from 1968 to 1987, died Jan 14. Miller returned in 1989 as an annuitant to teach in the Management Department. He earned his doctorate in 1954 from the University of Denver.

Bernita Persall, 54
Bernita Persall Bosch, who retired as an administrative operations analyst from Cal Poly in 1990, died of cancer on Jan. 10. She came to Cal Poly in 1964 as a stenographer and held a number of positions in Special Programs, Extended Education, and Enrollment Support Services.

Thank you
The following message was sent to the Cal Poly Report from the family of Ann Bramley, who died last year:
"The family of Ann Bramley, formerly special programs coordinator in Financial Aid, would like to extend their heartfelt thanks and appreciation to everyone who gave so generously of their vacation and sick leave credits last year. Your generosity and support during her illness were greatly appreciated by her and meant more than we can express."

VP finalist to be on campus Feb. 7-8
The first finalist for the position of vice president for student affairs will be interviewed on campus Monday and Tuesday, Feb. 7 and 8.
Raymond A. Downs, vice president for student affairs at Morgan State University in Baltimore, will be at an open forum from 2 to 3 pm Monday in Staff Dining Room B. He will give a brief presentation. A question-and-answer session and informal reception will follow.
Six finalists are expected to visit the campus between now and March 8.

Ethnic, minority news available in library
Current news from the ethnic and minority press is now available in the Kennedy Library's Reference Department.
Ethnic NewsWatch, a CD-ROM product, has 75,000 full-text news articles, columns, interviews, reviews, obituaries and editorials from 100 ethnic and minority newspapers and magazines.
African-American, Arab and Middle Eastern, Asian-American, Western European, Eastern European, Latino, Jewish, and Native American publications are represented. All articles are in English, except for those in Spanish from Latino publications. The entire database can be searched in both English and Spanish.
For more information, call the Reference Department at ext. 2649.

Dateline . . .
($)- Admission Charged
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 3
Men's Basketball: Cal State San Bernardino, Mott Gym, 5:45 pm. ($)
Film: "The Searchers." Palm Theatre, SLO, 7 pm. ($)
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 4
Baseball: Cal State Northridge, SLO Stadium, 2 pm. ($)
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 6
Speaker-Demo: Deirdre Towers (Maria Benitez Institute of Spanish Arts) will give a talk and demonstration on the art of flamenco. Theatre, 3 pm.
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 8
Panel: A FIDO program panel will discuss multicultural and diversity issues. Staff Dining Room, noon.
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 10
Speaker-Lunch: Dennis Hennessy (PG&G) will discuss "PG&E Corporate Restructuring and the Economic Impact on SLO County." For reservations, call Dianne Long, ext. 2984. Vista Grande, noon. ($)
Film: "The Wild Bunch." Palm Theatre, SLO, 7 pm. ($)
Men's Basketball: Cal Poly Pomona, Mott Gym, 7:30 pm. ($)

Position Vacancies
Vacant staff positions at Cal Poly and the Cal Poly Foundation are announced in this column and are posted outside the respective offices. Contact those offices (State: Adm. 110, ext. 2236 — Foundation Administration Building, ext. 112J) for applications and additional position details. Both Cal Poly and the Foundation are subject to all laws governing affirmative action and equal employment opportunity. Cal Poly hires only individuals lawfully authorized to work in the United States. All eligible and interested persons are encouraged to apply. Applications must be received by 4 pm or postmarked by the closing date.
STATE
CLOSING DATE: Feb. 16
Clerical Assistant III, $1891-$2240/month, Enrollment Support Services.