

THE CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY
OFFICE OF THE CHANCELLOR

August 2007

BAKERSFIELD

CHANNEL ISLANDS

Open Letter to the CSU Chico Community:

CHICO

During the spring 2007 term, the first three-year review of Paul J. Zingg, President of California State University, Chico was conducted. The review took the form of collecting and summarizing letters from a selection of the campus and external community members. The review concluded on May 15, 2007, with a discussion of the review by the CSU Board of Trustees. The Board of Trustees and I appreciate the contributions of those who worked with us on this review.

DOMINGUEZ HILLS

EAST BAY

FRESNO

FULLERTON

Criteria established by the Board of Trustees in 1984, and updated in 1994 and 2001, were used to assess the performance of President Zingg and the progress of the institution. These measures included the overall management of the institution, relations on campus and within the system, educational leadership, community relations, major achievements of the campus and the president, and personal characteristics of the president. Faculty, staff, students, alumni, and community representatives were invited to submit written comments responding to the trustees' criteria.

HUMBOLDT

LONG BEACH

LOS ANGELES

MARITIME ACADEMY

MONTEREY BAY

President Zingg is a leader who listens and gathers information; he chose to take a course of action that advances the public nature of the university. Soon after his arrival he asked that the university's strategic plan be reviewed. Dr. Zingg did not abandon the existing document, but rather sought to continue the best features, develop more focus and add the goal of sustainability.

NORTHRIDGE

POMONA

SACRAMENTO

President Zingg is open and inclusive, and brings a wide spectrum of people into the dialogue. For example, when the university was revising and updating the campus Master Plan, President Zingg included the community – something that had not been done before. He even made an unprecedented presentation to the Chico City Council.

SAN BERNARDINO

SAN DIEGO

As a result of retirements, Dr. Zingg has had the opportunity to appoint three new vice presidents, namely, advancement, student affairs and the provost, and he has appointed five academic deans. This group now constitutes his leadership team.

SAN FRANCISCO

SAN JOSÉ

SAN LUIS OBISPO

President Zingg is personally committed to improving the diversity of the campus. He appointed a full-time coordinator of diversity and directed more resources into the admissions and Equal Opportunity Program operations. Beginning in fall 2005, there were more ethnic minority student applications and actual enrollments, especially African-American students. In addition, the campus climate is markedly improved.

SAN MARCOS

SONOMA

STANISLAUS

Early in his presidency, Dr. Zingg faced several incidents involving alcohol abuse, hazing and a racial hate crime. One reaction was to require all of the members of Greek organizations to gather in a large auditorium on a Sunday night where he proceeded to inform the students that he would not tolerate irresponsible behavior. In essence, he created a zero-tolerance policy and he said he would shut down violators. Regarding the hate crime incident, Dr. Zingg immediately circulated a message around campus condemning the act.

Dr. Zingg worked with the city police department and the university police to dissuade students from celebrations that had gotten out of control in the past, especially Halloween and St. Patrick's Day. Dr. Zingg walked the nearby neighborhoods on Friday and Saturday nights to talk with neighbors and monitor student behavior. Members of the community and many business owners appreciate President Zingg's actions to promote good citizenship among CSU Chico students.

President Zingg is completely devoted to student success. He has an open door for students and gives them individual direction and purpose when needed. Academic Affairs and Student Affairs are working together on student retention, e.g., sharing reports and contacting students.

Because of his belief that CSU Chico is a public institution and has a responsibility to produce educated good citizens, he places a premium on community service learning. Although community service has been a part of CSU Chico for several decades, Dr. Zingg saw an opportunity to push community service learning forward as a signature component of a CSU Chico student's education.

With regard to community relations, as one person said, "He gets it." Dr. Zingg is very visible in the community. He participates in the Chamber of Commerce, the Rotary Club and the local Boys & Girls Club. He spends time cultivating business owners, alumni, and elected officials. He is passionate about fine arts, baseball, golf, and history. Dr. Zingg loves CSU Chico and the Chico community, and has quickly become connected to his new home.

Frequently, Dr. Paul Zingg displays a sense of humor. He is calm under pressure. He has high standards and ethics, and he is gentle and approachable. He knows many people on campus by their first name. Dr. Paul Zingg has built on the successes and best attributes of Chico's past presidents and advanced the university in the eyes of the community.

President Zingg and I have discussed the review results and report and identified the following goals for the next few years:

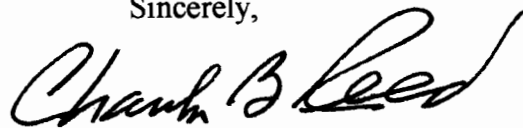
- Continue the outstanding community relations efforts.

- Support and implement the Graduation Rate Initiative of the Board of Trustees, including the establishment of policies and practices that will improve graduation rates.
- Diversify sources of funds used to support the university.
- Continue articulating aspects of the public purpose and civic nature of the university.
- Continue promoting responsible behavior among students.
- Continue to impress upon the campus community the importance of hiring new faculty who reflect the diversity of California and continue the efforts to attain more diversity within the student body.
- Continue the inclusive approach in campus planning and governance.
- Conduct a feasibility study and initiate a capital campaign for the university as soon as feasible.

In conclusion, President Paul Zingg loves CSU Chico and enjoys discussing its attributes as a learning community. President Paul Zingg should continue to lead the university to its destiny as a premier public university in California and the North State serving regional needs. We are extremely pleased to have Dr. Zingg as part of the California State University leadership team.

With kind regards,

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Charles B. Reed". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Charles B. Reed
Chancellor

CBR/wd