Dynes challenges PAC to “be where the puck is going to be”

President Dynes met with the President’s Advisory Commission on Agriculture and Natural Resources (PAC) on April 29-30 in Berkeley. In his first meeting with the group since becoming president, Dynes shared his views on the importance of research, development and delivery to California’s continued economic growth, and his initial impressions of ANR following his visit to Kearney Research and Extension Center and the San Joaquin Valley.

He said the Division is a successful model for how “R, D & D” should work in the University, citing the value of (ANR) people based on campuses and in local communities in getting new knowledge.

No cuts for CE

Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger released a revised spending plan for fiscal year 2004-05 on May 13 that proposes no additional cuts for UC beyond those in his January budget. The January proposal has no new cuts for Cooperative Extension, but includes a 5 percent “undesignated cut” for research. UC hopes to keep the actual reduction for research programs disproportionately cut in the past to less than 5 percent.

“We are heartened by this news from Sacramento,” said Steve Nation, executive director of Governmental and External Relations. “However, county governments still face deep cuts in 2004-05, and we shouldn’t let down on advocacy for Cooperative Extension.”

Release of the May Revision came two days after Gov. Schwarzenegger, UC President Dynes and CSU Chancellor Charles Reed announced agreement on a new Compact for Higher Education. The agreement provides for annual growth in state funding for base budgets and enrollment growth, beginning in the 2005-06 fiscal year, in exchange for commitments by UC and CSU to accountability in specified areas. The agreement extends through the 2010-11 fiscal year.

While the governor’s budget provides no state funding for cost of living increases for UC faculty and staff in 2004-05, the compact calls for annual state funding growth of 3 percent for salaries and other cost increases beginning in 2005-06. This will grow to 4 percent in 2007-08 and then to 5 percent in 2008-09 through 2010-11.

“The agreement with the governor is a baseline plan for helping the state’s public universities recover from years of cuts,” said Michael Reese, assistant vice president for Strategic Communications in the Office of the President. “Just as important, the compact is a floor, not a ceiling – the increases could be greater in years to come if the economy improves and the Legislature and the governor agree to provide additional resources.”

The constitutional deadline for the Legislature to pass the budget is June 15 and the governor has until June 30 to sign it. Last year the budget wasn’t passed until late July, but according to Nation “there is every indication that the Legislature will have a budget to the Governor by June 15.”

The Governor’s Budget May Revision:
http://www.dof.ca.gov/HTML/BUD_DOCS/Bud_link.htm

Compact and background materials:
http://www.universityofcalifornia.edu/news/Compact/welcome.html

Video message from President Dynes on Compact:

The Governor’s January Budget Proposal:
Gomes presented the commissioners options and alternatives on important policy issues and exploring convening the major principals, focusing on the future. There was agreement that UC can involve the expertise of Dynes to address some of the concerns raised in the listening sessions.

Dynes also challenged the commissioners to think long term about California agriculture (where are you going? where will you be?) and to advise him on how to move UC and the Division to where we need to be in the future to remain relevant and a world-class research, development and delivery organization.

Dynes said that growing up in Canada, he played semi-pro hockey through his teenage years and had the chance to watch the now legendary Bobby Orr on the ice. “Bobby Orr had an amazing ability to be where the puck was going to be,” he recalled. “Our job (at UC) is to put the programs in place, hire the faculty and form alliances so we are where the puck is going to be, so we lead the world. But to do this – we have to be thinking ahead 10, 20, or 30 years from now,”

— President Dynes

The commissioners responded positively to the challenge and encouraged Dynes to involve the expertise of the university in helping the state and the agricultural industry look to the future. There was agreement that UC can play a leadership and facilitation role in convening the major principals, focusing on important policy issues and exploring options and alternatives.

In other business, Vice President Gomes presented the commissioners with an update on ANR budget cuts and the impacts they have had on the Division. He informed them that over the past two years the Division has taken a 20 percent cut in research and a 25 percent cut to Cooperative Extension, resulting in a loss of 347 positions and closure of some programs.

Vice President for Budget Larry Hershman reviewed current year impacts of spending cuts on UC systemwide and outlined the University’s budget strategy for 2004-05. UC Strategic Communications Assistant Vice President Michael Reese described the university’s ambitious budget advocacy campaign for 2004-05 and beyond, including the activation of GetActive, a Web-based mobilization tool.

Interim Associate Vice President Lanny Lund reported on the ANR listening sessions, outlining the major themes that emerged from internal and external stakeholder comments. By July 1, Lund said a number of actions will be under way to address some of the concerns raised in the listening sessions.

A group supported by the PAC as a whole told President Dynes that they would like to see a more centralized CE organization that is responsive to local and statewide needs.

The major presentation for the Spring 2004 PAC meeting was California Agriculture and UC: Working together to meet environmental challenges. Gomes moderated the presentations by Rick Roush, director of the Integrated Pest Management Program; Bill Frost, ANR program leader for Natural Resources and UCCE county director for El Dorado County; and Chuck Ahlem, PAC member and state undersecretary of Food and Agriculture.

Roush described ANR efforts in reducing pesticide risks to the environment and human health; Frost explained how UC’s rangeland and farm water quality planning short courses are helping landowners comply with state regulations; and Ahlem discussed the benefits of the UC-industry partnership in California Dairy Quality Assurance Program.

Lund also provided a short presentation on ANR Research and Extension Centers as part of our long-term efforts to keep commissioners aware and informed of the breadth and range of the programs, departments, offices and facilities that comprise the division.

The PAC is scheduled to meet next on Oct. 7-8.
In memoriam

Melvin D. Androus

Melvin D. “Mel” Androus, of Yuba-Sutter counties, long-time friend of the Division and nationally recognized leader in the California rice industry, passed away on April 28.

Androus, an attorney and insurance professional, spent much of his career in the agricultural industry and serving UC. He began a long association with the rice industry in 1969 with his appointment as manager for the Rice Research Board, a post he held until 1997. He also served as manager of the California Rice Industry Committee, California Rice Promotion Board and California Wild Rice Program, and as a consultant for the California Rice Association.

Androus gave freely of his time and energy to UC, serving on numerous advisory boards and committees. He helped establish and served, for more than 20 years as a UC representative, on the Council for Agricultural Research, Extension and Teaching (CARET) — a national grassroots organization created in 1982 to bring stakeholders to Washington to lobby for land-grant agricultural programs and budget priorities.

Androus also chaired the California Commodity Committee, which represents the research interests of California commodity and marketing boards with UC, and served on the UCD Dean’s Policy Advisory Committee and the UC IPM Policy Committee. In 1997, the California Rice Research Board endowed a weed position at UC Davis and named it the “Melvin D. Androus” Endowed Professorship. The College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences bestowed its Award of Distinction on Androus in 2001.

Androus was a member of the Farm Foundation’s Bennett Agricultural Roundtable, CDFA’s Marketing Branch Fiscal Committee and the Ag Advisory Committee to the California State Fair; served on the board of directors of the California Ag Network Program and the Emerging Technologies Institute; and volunteered on many community organizations and societies in Yuba-Sutter counties.

His wife Glenna Rae Potter Androus preceded him in death. He is survived by their three daughters, Cheryl A. Crother and husband Larry of Fair Oaks, Connie Sue Higgins and husband Jim of Chester, and Colleen Lazzarini and her husband Richard of Novato, eight grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

Mendocino CE office moves

The Mendocino County UCCE office recently moved to a larger and more efficient office space. Their phone and fax numbers are the same as before. The new office address is: 890 North Bush Street, Ukiah, CA 95482. Please note this change for your future use.

This move, to a building next door to their former office, was made possible by the County of Mendocino. Recognizing both the value of UCCE to the County, and the serious space constraints UCCE faced in their home of 40 years, the County offered a newly refurbished building. The new building has greater visibility, provides more space for CE and also houses the Agriculture Department and Water Agency.

To customize the facility and provide needed materials, furnishings and equipment, Mendocino County Director John Harper and his staff are embarking on a campaign to raise $80,000 through private contributions. They will seek support from a broad cross-section of the community and offer numerous recognition opportunities for those who contribute.

California Agriculture conference on May 28

The Giannini Foundation is sponsoring the “California Agriculture: Dimensions and issues” conference from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Friday, May 28, at the Red Lion Hotel in Sacramento.

“California Agriculture: Dimensions and issues,” also a book recently published by University of California faculty and UC Cooperative Extension specialists in agricultural and resource economics, is the basis for the conference. The one-day conference is designed to spark dialogue between practitioners, policy-makers and the academic authors of the book.

Topics include international trade and California agriculture, marketing, farm labor, the significance of agriculture to the state’s economy and public policy, science and technology, and the future of California agriculture.

Registration for UC employees is waived. Standard registration is $75. Registration includes a signed copy of the book, “California Agriculture: Dimensions and issues,” a continental breakfast, lunch and a reception.

For online registration or more information, go to http://giannini.ucop.edu or call Amy Stewart at (510) 642-5440.
Names in the news

Yilma, Oster and Quail elected to NAS
The National Academy of Sciences announced on April 20 the election of its new members. Among them are three ANR faculty members: Tilahun Yilma, professor of virology in the College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences and director of the International Laboratory of Molecular Biology for Tropical Disease Agents; George F. Oster, professor of cell and developmental biology and of environmental science, policy and management in the College of Natural Resources; and Peter H. Quail, professor of plant biology in the College of Natural Resources and research director of the Plant Gene Expression Center, a joint collaboration between UC Berkeley and the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

The 72 new U.S. members and 18 foreign associates chosen this year by the academy included 16 UC scientists.

UCCE partners to combat childhood obesity
From left to right, Thomas White, director of the Community Development Commission; Senator Gloria Romero, D-24th District; Marvin Espinoza, project manager of California Children’s 5 a Day—Power Play! Campaign-Los Angeles; and Teresa Palacios, director of Eastmont Community Center. They joined UCCE in Los Angeles May 14 to promote exercise and eating fruits and vegetables as ways to combat childhood obesity.

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Krochta receives UC Discovery Grant
John Krochta, professor and Food Engineer Peter J. Shields Endowed Chair of Dairy Food Science, was recently awarded a UC Discovery Grant of $120,000.

The grant, matched by the California Dairy Research Foundation, is for a two-year project to commercialize the application of whey protein films and coatings as a bioactive food protection system to provide antimicrobial and antioxidant protection for foods.

Waterhouse honored as Kinsella endowed chair
Andrew Waterhouse, enology professor in the Department of Viticulture and Enology, was named the John E. Kinsella Endowed Chair in Food, Nutrition and Health on April 13. Waterhouse conducts research on phenolic compounds and their effect on the quality and consumer health aspects of wine.

DiTomaso named outstanding weed scientist
Joseph DiTomaso, UCCE weed specialist, was named “Outstanding Weed Scientist – Public Sector” at the Western Society of Weed Science’s annual meeting in Colorado Springs, March 2004. The award was based on DiTomaso’s impact and contributions to weed science, weed management practices, and services to the Western Society of Weed Science and California.

Meyer and Payne win EPA awards
Waste management specialist Deanne Meyer, and Michael Payne, researcher in UC Davis Department of Environmental Toxicology, were honored by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for their work to create and maintain the California Dairy Quality Assurance Program. They were presented awards in recognition of their efforts to protect and preserve the environment in 2003.

Bennett to lead PIPRA
Alan Bennett, professor of vegetable crops, and current executive director of Research, Administration and Technology Transfer at UC Office of the President, has been tapped to lead the Public Intellectual Property Resource for Agriculture (PIPRA), moving to UC Davis in July. The consortium of 20 universities and philanthropic groups united to overcome the legal barriers that slow development of biotech crops and bring the benefits of future biotech crops to developing countries. On July 1, Bennett will also assume the position of associate vice chancellor for research at UC Davis and oversee the Office of Technology Industry Alliances.
Retiring

Bill Olson

Bill Olson, Butte County director and farm advisor, will retire on June 14 after 31 years with UC Cooperative Extension.

Olson became a Butte County farm advisor in 1973, after five years as a staff research associate in the UC Berkeley Department of Entomology.

He joined a team of advisors and UC faculty that found that delays in harvest were detrimental to walnut quality. He evaluated new walnut varieties being developed at UC Davis, including the now very popular Chandler variety. Research Olson conducted in walnut training, pruning and mechanical hedging has been widely implemented to cut production costs. His work on control of walnut husk fly led to practices that have been adopted statewide.

In dried plums, Olson was part of a team that worked on mechanical thinning and potassium nutrient supplementation. Olson led the team that developed the “Integrated Prune Farming Practices Decision Guide,” with more than 100 pages covering dried plum irrigation, nutrition, pest and disease management guidelines.

Olson was appointed county director in 1993 and maintained farm advisor responsibilities.

Over the years, Olson wrote 85 peer-reviewed articles, 678 trade journal articles and 577 walnut, dried plum and cling peach newsletters. In 1988 he received the UCCE Distinguished Service Award for outstanding research and, in 1997, the UCCE Distinguished Service Award for teaching. In 1998 Olson and UC integrated pest management advisor Carolyn Pickel produced an award-winning video on walnut husk fly control.

VP Gomes has granted Olson the honor of emeritus status effective June 14.

Olson plans to continue some of his research projects. In August, Olson will present a paper on walnut husk fly in Australia. In November, he will speak about his walnut hedging research at a walnut symposium in Italy. He said also he looks forward to more time for travel in the United States, fishing, playing golf and staying in touch with his grower friends.

Beth Teviotdale

Beth Teviotdale, who became UC’s first woman agricultural extension specialist 30 years ago, retires in June, and will be installed president of the Fresno County Master Gardener volunteer program in July.

Teviotdale earned a bachelor’s degree in botany at Pomona College in Claremont, and master’s and Ph.D. degrees in plant pathology from UC Davis. In 1974, she took the position as UC Cooperative Extension plant pathology specialist at Kearney Research and Extension Center in Parlier.

Teviotdale’s research and teaching focused on diseases of deciduous fruit and nut crops and olives. Because plant diseases do not recur year to year, each season brought different disease challenges. She has worked on shot hole, ceratocystis canker, hull rot, scab and alternaria leaf blight of almond trees, deep bark canker, crown gall and blight of walnut trees, rust of prune trees, olive knot and leaf spot of olive trees, brown rot of stone fruit trees, and scab and fireblight of apple trees.

“I’ve spent a lot of time in orchards with farmers and farm advisors, diagnosing plant diseases and helping find solutions,” she said.

Over the years, Teviotdale has considered teaching her forte and that skill will be in high demand as president of Fresno County Master Gardeners.

“Beth’s involvement adds a great deal of credibility to our Master Gardener program,” said Fresno County environmental horticulture advisor Pam Geisel. “We have many professionals with skills and expertise, but her knowledge in plant pathology fills a gap in our resources.”

— Jeannette Warnert

Susan Laughlin

Susan Laughlin, interim assistant vice president, planning and budget, retired in March following a 26-year career with ANR.

Laughlin, of Benicia, earned a bachelor’s degree in psychology in 1963 at Stanford University, a master’s degree in social work in 1967 from New York University, and a Ph.D. in 1978 from UC Berkeley. In 1963, as a Peace Corps volunteer, Laughlin spent two years in Colombia teaching health and nutrition.

Laughlin started with UC Cooperative Extension in 1978 conducting research on the Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program (EFNEP). In 1981, she became the program director for food, nutrition and family consumer sciences. In 1989, Laughlin was named the associate dean for Cooperative Extension at UC Berkeley. Three years later, she became county director in Contra Costa County, before being promoted in 1999 to director of UCCE’s Central Coast and South Region. In 2002, Laughlin was named interim assistant vice president, planning and budget.

“I loved the variety of positions I’ve had over the years,” Laughlin said. “I enjoyed seeing the organization from many different angles.”

Laughlin begins her retirement with two trips abroad. In June, she and her husband will celebrate their 30th anniversary with a month-long vacation to Kenya and the islands of Zanzibar and Lamu in Africa. In the fall, Laughlin travels for a month to the city of Oaxaca, Mexico. She will also be returning to ANR to help with special projects.

— Jeannette Warnert
Dynes visits Kearney REC

President Robert Dynes said he is committed to ensuring that research innovations developed by University of California scientists end up in the hands of people who will use them.

“I like to refer to this as ‘R, D & D’ – meaning research, development and delivery,” Dynes said during his visit to Kearney Research and Extension Center April 23. “Nowhere is the commitment to UC’s land-grant mission and ‘R, D & D’ more evident than in the San Joaquin Valley.”

He visited the valley as part of his inaugural tour, a series of visits to communities throughout the state in place of a single inauguration event.

He toured Kearney’s new state-of-the-art greenhouse, where plant pathologist Themis Michailides explained the molecular procedures in the diagnosis, epidemiology and prediction of fruit tree and vine diseases, and entomologist Beth Grafton-Cardwell spoke about ways to delay the development of pesticide resistance in California red scale in citrus.

Tulare County farm advisor Manuel Jimenez showed Dynes his blueberry field trials on the eastern edge of the 330-acre field station. Dynes, who was accustomed to the tartness of blueberries grown in his native Canada, tasted sweet California blueberries for the first time.

Blueberries are a new crop in California thanks to the research efforts of Jimenez and other small farm advisors. They found that by maintaining sufficient soil acidity and selecting proper varieties of a crop that is traditionally grown in the much cooler northwestern and northeastern parts of the United States, blueberries could be successfully grown in California.

“I’m energized by what’s going on here in the valley, and I thank you for your hospitality,” Dynes said.

He ate a breakfast featuring some of the valley’s finest fresh produce – such as strawberries, melons, orange juice and kiwifruit – with some of the valley’s prominent political and agribusiness leaders. During his remarks, Dynes highlighted some of the contributions ANR scientists have made to the agricultural industry and concluded by asking advisors and specialists present to stand and be recognized.

Visalia attorney and President’s Advisory Commission member Dan Dooley said he was pleased to hear the president’s comments about the importance of information delivery.

“A number of partnerships have resulted from business links with Cooperative Extension,” Dooley said. “It is a unique delivery system that has tremendous value.”

Ted Batkin, president of the Citrus Research Board, said effective delivery also requires private industry partnerships. The Citrus Research Board has contributed to the screen house and packing line at Lindcove Research and Extension Center.

“The industry should not only be taking information, but it should be involved in information development and delivery,” Batkin said.

Dynes agreed, “There needs to be a dynamic flow in all directions.”

After his visit to Kearney, Dynes received a guided tour of the valley’s agricultural lands on the way to Bakersfield, where he met with UC alumni, members of Kern County Cooperative Extension and elected officials.

— Jeannette Warnert