

December 6, 2005

MEMORANDUM

TO: All Interested Parties in the California State University System

FROM: Jim Cox, Coordinator, Faculty Research Fellows Program,
Center for California Studies, CSUS

SUBJECT: Request for Proposals

PROJECT TITLE: Maximizing the State's Investment in Higher Education's Physical Capacity

The Senate Office of Research has requested assistance from the California State University Faculty Research Fellows Program to assess the physical capacity of the three public sectors of higher education and project future needs through the year 2020.

Qualified California State University faculty and staff should submit proposals in response to this request. We prefer that the principal investigator is a full-time faculty or staff member of the CSU system, but it is not necessary. Part-time faculty and students can be included as secondary investigators and assistants. The enclosed attachment provides background on the issue, a description of the project, timeline, budget, and requirements for the submission of a proposal.

Proposals are due January 23, 2006 and should be mailed or faxed to:

Tim Hodson, Director
Center for California Studies
Faculty Research Fellows Program
California State University, Sacramento
Sacramento, CA 95819-6081

Fax: (916) 278-5199

The decision date for funding is January 30, 2006. The RFP may be re-issued in the spring if there is not appropriate response. Upon notification of award, research should begin immediately. The final report must be completed and submitted by June 30, 2006.

Sign-off by the principal researcher's campus research office is preferred, but not required. Researcher(s)' salary, travel, and incidental expenses are usually paid through CSU, Sacramento. If researcher(s) desire the payment of travel and incidental expenses through the principal researcher's home campus, indirect cost can be paid on these items provided the total budget (including indirect cost) does not exceed \$15,000.

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY
FACULTY RESEARCH FELLOWS PROGRAM
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

December 6, 2005

Project Title/Description

Maximizing the State's Investment in Higher Education's Physical Capacity

Determine current physical capacity of the three public sectors of higher education, projecting future needs through the year 2020. Explore various models for maximizing physical capacity and accommodating projected enrollment growth during this time period. Make recommendations for improving the state's ability to assess physical capacity needs and create incentives for institutions to engage in efforts that maximize the use of facilities and improve efficiencies in accommodating enrollment growth.

Background

California higher education is midway through a high growth period referred to as "Tidal Wave II," a reference to the enrollment growth attributed to the children of baby boomers who are reaching college-age. Between 1990 and 2000, K-12 enrollment grew from 4.8 to 6 million students, which has fed the Tidal Wave II boom in the state. Although projected enrollment growth is expected to taper off by about 2010, higher education enrollment is still projected to increase over the next decade by more than 20 percent.¹

Other dynamics will continue to fuel strong enrollment growth in the state's colleges and universities. In the next twenty-five years, California is projected to be the fastest growing state in the country, with an increase of twelve million residents, or one-third of its current population.² Additionally, the economic and workforce demands of the state are placing greater pressure on California's system of higher education to more effectively and successfully educate a larger share of the overall population than ever in the state's history. If successful, colleges and universities will serve a student population that extends well beyond the current traditional college-going population. Both of these trends have significant implications for planning future capacity within higher education.

The state does not have the resources to fund the capital facilities needs of colleges and universities based on current funding models. The current model for funding higher education facilities involves a process by which each segment identifies its capital needs based on a combination of systemwide and local campus input in response to projected

¹ Richardson, Richard C., Jr., et.al. *Public Policy and Higher Education Performance in the State of California*, (The Alliance for International Higher Education Policy Studies: March 2005), 1.

² Ibid.

enrollment demand. There currently is little incentive for shared planning solutions. As a result, capacity needs typically reflect an intra-campus perspective. The segments then present their proposals to the state for approval. The state currently has limited capacity to independently assess the capital needs of segments and evaluate whether campus proposals are as cost-effective as possible. Moreover, there are entities, such as the Legislative Analyst Office, that argue new facilities are not needed. But rather, the segments need to make better use of existing capacity.

In an environment of limited resources, strategic planning and coordination must begin in earnest to maximize current capacity by identifying new strategies and models for accommodating the future enrollment growth in higher education.

Expected Output

1. Identify current physical capacity levels for each public segment of higher education and existing alternative cost-effective space utilization strategies and models.
2. Assess the capacity needs for the state over the next fifteen years in relationship to current capacity, paying particular attention to changing enrollment patterns of a diverse student population.
3. Examine the state's current short-and long-term policy-making capacity regarding capital outlay investments within higher education and make recommendations for strengthening this decision-making capacity.
4. Assess the relative costs and benefits of the various models for maximizing the efficient use of institutional physical capacity, including but not limited to:
 - Joint-use facilities agreements between campuses and between systems
 - Expanded use of distance learning
 - Opportunities to expand summer enrollments
 - Greater use of facilities during afternoons, evenings and on weekends
 - Other options for increasing institutional efficiencies that help students move through the system toward degree completion as quickly and efficiently as possible
5. Provide policy recommendations for future legislation.

Project Timeline

The final report must be completed and submitted by June 30, 2006.

Project Budget

The budget is \$15,000. Between \$2,000 and \$4,000 additional funding may be available but this is not certain and proposals should not assume it will be available