



Reflections

from the President

June 23, 2008

These past two weeks have been very different from the typical weeks. It has been a very exciting time for our University and we have also been able to get some issues resolved.

On Tuesday June 10, I flew to Washington, D.C. from Pittsburgh after spending a long weekend with Sharon's family to attend the annual summer meeting of the NASULGC Council of Presidents. It was a very stimulating day as we discussed a position paper on college costs and affordability, a national initiative on preparing science and math teachers, a higher education initiative in Africa, and several other issues. In addition, we heard a presentation from the new CEO of the Kellogg Foundation. It was a very productive day. The college affordability question is a very complicated topic and it is very important that we figure out how to communicate this concern more accurately.

I hoped to return to Fresno Tuesday evening but a thunderstorm made it impossible to get out of Washington on time. I left Wednesday morning and returned to Fresno by noon. I joined the Senior Campaign Leadership meeting upon my return. This was followed by a meeting with local community college CEO's and their research staff and representatives of CAL-PASS to discuss the services which CAL-PASS can provide. I am helping to improve articulation between high school, community colleges, and four year universities. This system has great potential to provide data which will allow us to look at better alignment of our curriculum.

At 3 p.m. I met with Provost Jeri Echeverria to discuss a number of Academic Affairs issues. This was followed by a meeting with Dean of Engineering Michael Jenkins, to review a long-term plan to generate private support for the college. Following this meeting, I met with Vice-President of Student Affairs Paul Oliaro, to discuss a number of Student Affairs issues. Wednesday provided some time to catch up on paper work which had accumulated.

Thursday began at 7:30 a.m. with a meeting of the Fresno

Business Council Executive Committee. We addressed a number of issues including a membership and board recruitment plan. I arrived in the office at 9 a.m. to meet with representatives of the State Employees United Way campaign to discuss the possibility of providing a loaned executive to this falls campaign effort. I am pleased to say that I believe we will be able to assist with this request. Vice-President Oliaro and Campus Information Systems Director John Briar, will continue to lead our campus effort.

Following this meeting, I met with Vice-President of Advancement Peter Smits to discuss a number of Advancement issues. After lunch I met with Vice-President Smits and Associate Vice-President of Development Mary Anna Dunn to discuss a number of Comprehensive Campaign prospects and other campaign issues.

Following this meeting, I met with Vice-President of Administration Cynthia Teniente-Matson and Associate Vice-President of Auxiliary Services and Enterprise Development Debbie Adishian-Astone, to discuss several Auxiliary issues. I am pleased that work has begun on our Campus Pointe project. Following this meeting, I met with Vice-President Teniente-Matson to discuss a number of Administrative Affairs issues.

After completing some paper work and meeting briefly with a community leader, I attended a reception honoring Senator Dave Cogdill and Assembly Member Mike Villines. I was reminded once again that this is the New California with two members of the Republican Party who are in key leadership positions from our Valley.

Friday began at 7:30 a.m. with a meeting of Vice-President Teniente-Matson and Associate Vice-President Moffitt to discuss several budget items. At 9:30 a.m. I participated in a interview with a Washington Post reporter to discuss conference alignments over the last several years.

At 10 a.m. I met with Internal Auditor Matt Babick to

discuss several audit issues. Following this meeting, I left campus to meet with a University supporter to discuss a possible major gift to the University. It was an excellent discussion and I look forward to our continued discussions.

I returned to the office just after noon and devoted the afternoon to catching up on paper work and doing some preparation work for our upcoming Cabinet Retreat. On Friday night Bryan and Kim had us over for dinner to celebrate an early Father's Day.

On Saturday we prepared for our trip to Omaha and the College World Series. We left at 2:15 p.m. Saturday afternoon. Unfortunately, we encountered a huge delay in Denver and we did not get to Omaha until 4:30 a.m. Sunday morning. It was a very short night but the great Bulldogs win on Sunday made us forget how tired we were. The World Series setting is impressive and the people were very nice to us. I took advantage of the trip to meet with a CEO of an irrigation company to discuss our International Center for Water Technology. Monday also provided some time to meet with Athletics Director Thomas Boeh and Associate Athletics Director Betsy Mosher on some Athletics issues.

Tuesday evening's game was very exciting and of course early on Monday word was received that Coach Mike Batesole had been selected as the Collegiate Baseball Writer's Coach of the Year. I could not have been more proud of the team and coaching staff along with our athletics administrative staff.

Late Tuesday evening I received word that our system staff had successfully negotiated resolution of the Stacy Johnson-Klein matter. I am pleased that this issue has been resolved.

After a late Tuesday evening, I was on a plane at 7 a.m. to fly to Phoenix and on to Sedona, Arizona to attend the NASULGC Council on Innovation, Competitiveness and Economic Prosperity, to discuss University strategies for enhancing Regional Innovation. It was an excellent meeting. We learned about Arizona State's work in their region which is a very new model for Universities. I spoke on Thursday morning about our work in our region which also received some very positive feedback. I returned to Omaha on Thursday evening and we joined Director Boeh, Associate Director Mosher, Associate Director Paul Ladwig and their staff members at dinner. They have

been working very hard.

On Friday we enjoyed a round of golf and spent time on the phone and addressing e-mail. Saturday provided some good time to work on performance evaluations and other year-end reports. Of course, on Saturday evening we were off to the ballpark. After a brief rain delay the game was underway. It was an exciting game but unfortunately we did not prevail. Nevertheless, the Bulldogs did a great job and demonstrated that they can play with anyone. Despite the loss, everyone can be extremely proud of their performance.

Sunday provided more time to work on performance reviews and I was delighted that I could finish the reviews and a couple of year-end reports before game time. The game was a dream. The team did a great job in all areas and demonstrated why they should play for a national championship. Congratulations to Coach Batesole, his staff, and the team! We are in the final round for the NCAA National Championship!

Go Dogs!