

December 17, 2001

To: JOSEPH W. WATSON
Vice Chancellor-Student Affairs

Via: MICHAEL A. BERNSTEIN
Chair, Academic Senate, San Diego Division

Sub: Millennium Scholarships

Dear Vice Chancellor Watson:

The Academic Senate Committee on Affirmative Action and Diversity (AA&D) would like to respond to the recent events with respect to the Millennium Scholarships offered to admitted freshmen for enrollment in the fall of 1999 and 2000. A complaint resulted in an opinion from the University General Counsel that scholarships should not be administered by the University. The negative effect that this opinion has had on efforts to increase the enrollment at UCSD of freshman undergraduates from underrepresented groups has been brought to the committee's attention.

The Millennium Scholarships represent an innovative program designed to increase the number of top academically qualified undergraduates from underrepresented communities that enroll at UCSD. Although Proposition 209 appears to prohibit awards of any type of scholarship support on the basis of race or ethnicity, as it does for hiring or the award of contracts, the committee would like to suggest an alternative approach that at the same time can enhance diversity and academic excellence on the UCSD campus.

The basis for taking action to increase the ability of UCSD to compete for academically outstanding students from educationally disadvantaged communities lies in the conviction that education is enhanced and enriched by exposing students to the full range of knowledge, ideas, and experience held by their peers. Conversely, as a public institution, UCSD has a responsibility to develop and realize the potential of UC-eligible students from throughout California society. The Millennium Scholarships recognize the need to take proactive steps to bring these students to UCSD.

To realize these goals, UCSD could offer Millennium Scholarships based on the following redefined criteria:

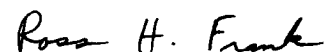
- Awards will be made to applicants for UCSD admission who show a commitment to diversity within their school or community.
- Such a commitment could be shown in a number of ways, e.g.: mentoring of students; development or participation in outreach activities for those

who are socially, educationally, or economically disadvantaged; — as well as other avenues the applicant may enumerate.

- Applicants will be asked to furnish plans concerning how their commitment to diversity will extend to their undergraduate career at UCSD.
- If the scholarship award is for a 2-year period, a status report at the end of the first year could review activities the student has undertaken while at UCSD to encourage diversity as a part of academic excellence.

Although a new set of criteria based on a demonstrable commitment to increasing diversity will require an application process and awards committee, the advantage obtained by the campus community in recruiting a group of talented undergraduates committed to improving diversity at UCSD has the potential to greatly affect the campus culture.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ross H. Frank". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Ross Frank
Associate Professor
Chair, Committee on Affirmative
Action & Diversity