

Founded in 1965, the University of California, Irvine (UCI) combines the strengths of a major research university with the advantages of an outstanding Southern California location. Over four remarkable decades, UCI has become internationally recognized for academic efforts that are improving lives through research and discovery, fostering excellence in scholarship and teaching, and engaging and enriching the community.

With 24,000 students, 1,400 faculty members, and 8,300 staff, UCI is among the fastest growing campuses in the University of California system. Increasingly a first-choice campus for students, UCI ranks among the top U.S. universities in the number of undergraduate applications and continues to admit freshmen with highly competitive academic profiles. Orange County's second-largest employer, in 2005-06 UCI generated an annual economic benefit to the county of \$3.3 billion.

UCI is benefiting the community and the world in countless ways through its scholarly, scientific, creative, and economic contributions. On its way to becoming one of the nation's very best universities, UCI is proposing this plan to ensure the campus continues to inspire excellence as it fulfills its research, teaching, and public service missions in the decades ahead.

WHAT IS A LONG RANGE DEVELOPMENT PLAN?

Within the University of California, a Long Range Development Plan (LRDP) is a comprehensive policy and land use plan that guides the growth of a campus. The LRDP identifies the physical development needed to achieve the academic needs and goals of the campus while demonstrating responsible conservation of limited resources. The 2007 LRDP for the Irvine campus provides a framework of policies and guidelines to shape land use and physical development at UCI through 2025-26. The plan, designed to support key academic and student life goals, identifies development objectives, delineates campus land uses, and estimates the new building space needed to support projected program expansion through the planning horizon year.

The 2007 LRDP is similar to a city's general plan. It identifies land use and policies for designated areas rather than specific development projects, and defines the potential growth of the UCI campus through 2025-26. The LRDP is neither an enrollment plan nor an



Aldrich Hall as seen from the Laurel L. Wilkening Rose Garden.

implementation plan; rather, it provides a framework of policies and guidelines to influence future decisions on land use, enrollment, housing, parking, academic facilities, and urban and landscape design. Individual capital projects would be subject to future approval by the University.

The 2007 LRDP encompasses the main campus and its environs. It does not include remote campus sites such as the UCI Medical Center in Orange and the Shellmaker Island boathouse in Newport Beach.

The 2007 LRDP is accompanied by an Environmental Impact Report (EIR), prepared in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and University of California guidelines for implementation of CEQA. The EIR considers possible environmental effects of the plan and prescribes mitigation measures for reducing environmental impacts that could result from UCI's physical growth. The EIR is considered by The Regents of the University of California (The Regents) in conjunction with its approval of the LRDP.

RELATIONSHIP WITH THE COMMUNITY

While planning decisions by the University are governed by State law and generally are not subject to local land use authority, UCI regularly consults with local agencies and actively seeks to coordinate its development plans with local community plans. Preparation of the 2007 LRDP and the planning vision that it promotes involved

consultation with local authorities, community leaders, and the general public.

NEED FOR THE PLAN

The University of California requires that each campus and medical center maintain an LRDP to guide capital project development and approval. UCI's previous LRDP was approved by The Regents in September 1989. The process of periodically updating an LRDP provides The Regents an opportunity to make certain that physical plans remain solidly based on academic program goals. The purpose of the 2007 LRDP, therefore, is to provide a broad, coherent, and adaptable policy framework to achieve UCI's academic and support program goals and to inform decisions concerning land use. The 2007 LRDP is intended to:

- *Update UCI's long range land use planning in light of currently foreseen changes in the demographic and educational landscape.* The 2007 LRDP is an update to the 1989 plan and provides a framework of policies and guidelines to shape land use and physical development at UCI through academic year 2025-26.
- *Equip the campus with an updated policy and land use framework to achieve key academic and student life goals.* The 2007 LRDP is designed to accommodate the physical development needed to support the array of goals identified in UCI's strategic plan for academic development.
- *Provide an improved basis for future decisions concerning land uses and capital projects.* The 2007 LRDP offers guidance for the physical development of the UCI campus through the planning horizon year in a way that supports academic pursuits.
- *Support the University of California's commitment to the state Master Plan for Higher Education.* Under the state Master Plan for Higher Education, the University of California (UC) accepts students from the top 12.5 percent of California's high school graduating class each year. Demographic projections of high school graduates indicate that enrollment at UC will continue to grow steadily over the next decade. The 2007 LRDP accommodates increases in UCI enrollment as projected by the UC Office of the President and UCI's strategic plan for academic

development. In addition, the 2007 LRDP provides flexibility should the campus need to respond to future growth demands that exceed the current projections. In this way, the 2007 LRDP supports access to UC.

The 2007 LRDP is not intended to prescribe a detailed blueprint for implementing the plan, nor does it commit either the campus or the University of California to specific projects or enrollment targets, construction schedules, or funding priorities.

PLANNING PROCESS

This update to the UCI LRDP responds to evolving academic objectives and demographic changes. Like the 1989 LRDP, the 2007 LRDP describes a physical vision for the long-term development of the UCI campus. To ensure a framework for cohesive growth that addresses both functional and aesthetic objectives, the 2007 LRDP provides revised population, square footage, parking, and transportation parameters, and sets forth a framework of land use designations based on recommendations resulting from a strategic planning initiative launched by the campus in 2004.

In spring 2004, six planning committees each comprised of 12 to 15 faculty, staff, and administrators were convened under the auspices of the Chancellor's Advisory Council (CAC) to define specific campuswide goals associated with key areas of campus planning: (1) academic breadth; (2) research and graduate programs; (3) campus life; (4) physical facilities; (5) UCI's public role; and (6) resources. The Physical Resources Subcommittee, for example, focused on identifying the type, scale, and quality of physical facilities needed to meet UCI's strategic goals, and recommended a physical planning framework to meet these goals.

Each planning committee reported its conclusions to CAC at the end of summer 2004. The deans of all the academic units were then invited to evaluate the reports, resulting in a draft document that served as a platform for discussion by the collective campus community in 2004-05. In response to suggestions received, the plan was revised and provided to the deans, CAC, the Executive Vice Chancellor, and the Chancellor for review in September 2005. A final plan entitled *A Focus on Excellence: A Strategy for Academic Development*

at the University of California, Irvine, 2005-2015, was published in late 2006.

The goals outlined in the strategic plan served as the basis for preparation of the 2007 LRDP. Academic objectives guided the formulation of the program assumptions for 2025-26 used in the 2007 LRDP, including the population and physical development to be accommodated by the LRDP. The LRDP planning process included technical analyses (including analyses to address transportation and infrastructure needs) and an evaluation of the environmental effects of the development plan.

During the development of the 2007 LRDP, UCI consulted regularly with local elected officials and planning staff. Two public workshops on the 2007 LRDP and public hearings on its accompanying Environmental Impact Report were moderated by UCI in the fall of 2007.

ORGANIZATION OF THE LRDP

The 2007 LRDP is organized into five chapters:

- *Chapter 1: Background and Planning History* discusses aspects of UCI's history, relationship to the community, and previous LRDPs that are relevant to a full understanding of this document.
- *Chapter 2: Existing Planning Context* summarizes UCI's current enrollment, academic organization, and ancillary programs that provide the starting point for updating the LRDP. Existing facilities, land uses, and environmental setting of the campus are also described. Existing planning agreements with other institutions and agencies that are pertinent to the 2007 LRDP are summarized.
- *Chapter 3: LRDP Program 2007-2025* presents the needs of the campus related to population, land, and facilities to the planning horizon year. This chapter also compares the present program to the 1989 LRDP.
- *Chapter 4: Planning Principles* introduces overarching goals to guide the development of the campus, highlights the relationships among uses in the main geographic areas of the campus, and identifies objectives to further enhance these relationships as the campus grows.
- *Chapter 5: Plan Elements* describes the land use, circulation, housing, open space, and infrastructure elements of the campus, and catalogues the major physical changes proposed in the LRDP.

