

PRESIDENT'S CABINET/EOC TEAM

Tuesday, January 16, 2001

HIGHLIGHTS

Cabinet members present: President Suzuki, Dr. Ambrosion, Dr. Barnes, Dr. Berman, Mr. Carmona, Ms. Farris, Ms. Martin, Dr. Ochoa, Dr. Ollenburger, Dr. Soriano, Mr. Storey, Dr. Tillman, Dr. Turk

EOC Team members present: Mr. Charles, Mr. Lwin, Mr. Marcarian, Mr. McAlary, Ms. McFall, Ms. Morad, Ms. Plater, Mr. Veach

Energy Crisis

The President's Cabinet members were asked to attend an emergency meeting of the policy group of the Emergency Operations Center Team to discuss with them the steps being taken, and to obtain their input, with regard to the current energy crisis.

A Stage 3 alert was called at 7 a.m. this morning and, as was decided last week, the campus elected to remain open in order for classes to continue. Although the campus will not shut down, every effort will be made to conserve power and decrease the consumption by 50% if possible.

President Suzuki reported that the campus has worked for many years to conserve energy on the supply side, but it is now imperative that we begin to conserve on the "user" side, by turning off lights, computers, monitors, printers, copiers as much as possible. The campus will be looking at longer-term solutions to the energy problem which we expect will persist for at least two years.

As of today, emergency generators will be brought to campus and will be up and running by Monday, January 22. In the event of energy shut-downs, the campus will have the option of resorting to power by generators which would take about 30 minutes to bring up. Donna Tillman asked if it would be possible to purchase the generators, instead of renting them. It was reported that the campus is in serious discussions regarding the feasibility of building a generating plant on campus which would serve our electrical power needs in full. Given the uncertainty of the timing of the plant project, purchasing the generators at this point may not be our best approach. The option, however, is one of the many actions being considered.

Don Ambrosion expressed his concern about evening and weekend performances scheduled on campus and the public relations aspects of canceling performances at the last minute. It was suggested that prior to each performance, an announcement is made

that, due to the energy crises, it is possible we will experience a black-out, but that it would last for a maximum of 30-45 minutes while the campus switches to generators.

President Suzuki announced that a task force will be brought together to address the issue of ongoing conservation. This group will include all campus constituencies, and will solicit ideas from the campus community. Ed Barnes and Chris McAlary will co-chair the task force.

Kim Plater briefly reported on a plan for evacuating the campus; however, it does not appear we will need to evacuate at any time in the immediate future due to the plans now in place. In the meantime, Public Safety will look at all possible options for a mass evacuation.

Michael Berman and Manuel Pilonieta reported on the website being developed which will include up-to-the-minute information on the energy crisis. This site will inform the campus community of when we are in a penalty phase of the I-6 interruptible rate program. Information will be available on the website and on the telephone line 866/769-POLY, as well as via e-mail messages and in printed materials. Information will also be available via building marshals.

President Suzuki indicated that the Governor, the legislature and the Chancellor are looking into the possibility of obtaining funding for all of the CSUs to build their own generating power plants.

Harmick Marcarian announced that he learned during an ISO teleconference this afternoon there was a possibility of a rolling black-out between 4-8 p.m. this evening.

Arturo Carmona stressed the important of informing students as early as possible as to any impending power shut-down. Classrooms without windows are a problem. The university is in the process of providing flashlights and light sticks, although students will be asked to bring flashlights to campus for evening classes.

Esteban Soriano suggested that we look into an emergency alert system, similar to an air raid system, that could be heard all over the campus. Chris McAlary volunteered to look into this possibility.

Eduardo Ochoa expressed concern that individual employees who receive phone tree messages may not be available to receive them which creates a problem of emergency messages not getting relayed to instructors and students. It was suggested that Telecommunications centrally generate a message to all faculty and staff. The feasibility of this suggestion will be studied.

Kim Plater indicated that she and her staff will prepare and duplicate a one-page "Emergency Procedures" paper and see that it is distributed to all instructors teaching evening classes tonight. Copies will be given to all vice presidents for distribution to people in their areas tomorrow.

The President asked if the EOC Emergency Management Team should be expanded to include the Cabinet. It was offered that this team has typically remained small in order to facilitate coming together quickly.

The President asked that all EOC team members remain on call in anticipation of further information on the energy crisis. He thanked Cabinet members for making themselves available on short notice to attend this meeting.