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Introductory Remarks on the UC Humanities Initiative, Regents meeting, Los Angeles, California

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<https://escholarship.org/uc/item/9483f20d>

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Publication Date

1987-09-17

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INTRODUCTORY REMARKS ON THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA
HUMANITIES INITIATIVE
Regents' Meetings

David P. Gardner, President
University of California

Los Angeles
September 17, 1987

I have been concerned for some time about the future of the humanities in American higher education, and have sought out ways to improve their circumstances in the University of California. Thus, in 1985 I appointed a Universitywide Advisory Committee on the Humanities and asked the members to plan a comprehensive program to better support and further encourage the humanities within UC. In appointing the committee, I recognized that the humanities have confronted more than their share of difficulties in recent years, problems that are national, not merely institutional, in scope. Two examples make the point:

- . In its 1980 report on the condition of the humanities in America, the [Rockefeller] Commission on the Humanities found much that was disturbing: the declining quality of humanities education in the schools, deteriorating support for America's cultural institutions, insufficient funding for humanities research.
- . External support for research in the humanities, in fact, does not begin to approach that for research in the sciences, technology, and the health sciences. For example, the 1987 budget for the National Science Foundation was \$1.6 billion, compared to \$139 million for the

National Endowment for the Humanities. Even when one takes into account the very high costs of conducting scientific research, the gap in funding is dramatic. Moreover, sources of non-Federal research support for the humanities are quite limited, including that from scholarly associations and societies.

These adverse trends should be a source of apprehension to all of us. Languages, literature, linguistics, history, jurisprudence, philosophy, archaeology, comparative religion, ethics, the history, criticism, and theory of the arts, and those aspects of the social sciences which have a humanistic content and employ humanistic methods--these disciplines constitute the heart of our cultural legacy. The health and vigor of the humanities are indispensable if we are to offer students the broad liberal education they will need to function in a dramatically changing world.

Thus, I am pleased to announce today that the University of California is initiating a program intended to strengthen the humanities in the University of California, to provide them increased support, and to encourage the nation's brightest and most promising young people to commit themselves to the humanities as their life's work. This program has four elements, each of which I will describe briefly.

First, a Universitywide Humanities Research Institute will be established and housed on the Irvine campus. The University of California collectively is the home of leading scholars in all areas of the humanities. But heretofore we have not had a Universitywide locus for interaction among these scholars, and a structure for systematic involvement of their national and international colleagues. Thus, the University of California Humanities Research Institute is a unique opportunity to create an internationally distinguished center for scholarly work in the humanities, a magnet for the world's leading humanists to come and learn from one another and to advance our understanding and appreciation of the humanities.

Second, each of the nine campuses will receive support for major organized research projects that have the potential to grow into organized research units in the humanities.

Third, research fellowships in the humanities for UC faculty members will be established, with the recipients to be designated as President's Fellows in the Humanities. This program will address the problem of scarce extramural support for faculty in two ways: it will supplement research awards received by our faculty from other sources--foundations, governments, scholarly societies, and the like--and will also offer full fellowships for promising UC researchers. These scholars will be selected by humanists from both within and outside UC, who will recommend

President's Fellowships for approximately 30 UC faculty each year.

Fourth, we will be offering University Predoctoral Fellowships in the Humanities, approximately 80 each year. These fellowships are intended to attract outstanding young scholars to UC to study the humanities. The program will combine fellowships during the first and dissertation years with teaching or research assistantships for the years intervening. In our 1988-89 budget request, we will ask the State to match the funding we are dedicating to this fellowship program in order to assure adequate graduate student support in the humanities.

In all, the Office of the President and the campuses will invest more than \$3 million annually for these programs, through a reallocation of State funds and the use of non-State discretionary funds.

I wish to thank the members of the Ad Hoc Advisory Committee for their outstanding work in planning this initiative; the Chancellors for their cooperation and enthusiastic support; and the Academic Senate, whose favorable review of the humanities initiative permits me to bring it to you today. Associate Vice President Calvin Moore, who worked closely with the committee in designing the initiative, will introduce our panel of speakers, who will tell you more about it.