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**Open letter to the Richmond community  
from UC Berkeley Chancellor Nicholas Dirks:  
An update on the Berkeley Global Campus  
May 28, 2015**

Dear Neighbors:

Ever since the fall of 2014, when we first announced UC Berkeley's plans to build a new, Global Campus on university-owned property along Richmond Bay, our actions and efforts have been guided by a clear set of principles and values, all consistent with the fundamental character of our University.

UC Berkeley is the flagship campus of the State of California's University system composed of 10 campuses. We, as well as our strategic partner, the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, are and always will be first and foremost public institutions of higher learning and research with a public service mission.

The University is a not-for-profit institution – we are not a private developer. We do not make land use policy decisions for anyone other than ourselves. As public stewards of land within the City of Richmond, UC Berkeley will manage the Global Campus, a visionary undertaking, in support of our core mission: – teaching, research and public service for the people of California, the nation, and the world.

The proposed Berkeley Global Campus itself is much more than an entirely new form of international institution of higher education and research. The success of this project will be measured not just by the extent to which it supports our teaching and research mission. Equally important to us is the degree to which it generates new economic activity, jobs, educational programs and civic opportunities in Richmond. In short, I see it as an extension of our deep commitment, as a public university, to advancing the greater good on both global and local levels.

Doubts about our commitment to the Richmond community should be dispelled by the fact that we committed to a comprehensive community engagement effort, and to signing binding agreements that will ensure Richmond benefits from the campus's development and operations that go far, far beyond our legal obligations. In short, we are engaged in this collaborative process with a Working Group of community representatives not because we have to, but because who we are as a public university demands that we think about the public good in the broadest possible terms. The

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Richmond Community Working Group itself consists of representatives chosen by a broad range of civic, faith-based, educational, labor and philanthropic organizations and entities that represent the rich diversity of the city. And, before continuing, I want to offer my sincere thanks and appreciation to every member of the Working Group for their hard work, long hours and continued commitment to our partnership and collaboration.

The commitments we made in writing more than a year ago still stand, and the framework for defining and implementing our obligations is clear:

- When the Working Group process is completed, we will enter into appropriate agreements that will define and guarantee the benefits that will accrue to the community as a result of the project. These agreements will also define the obligations of other parties, including the city of Richmond.
- These agreements will build on a wide range of projects and programs the University is already engaged in and committed to in Richmond, particularly in the areas of education, workforce training and local procurement.
- These agreements will include Development Process Requirements as well as Financial Investments/Commitments in the community.
- The agreements themselves will be based on recommendations formulated not by the University, but by the representative Working Group.

Let me be clear about something else. Despite what some are saying, there does not yet exist a detailed, completed agreement of any sort that is ready for signing, and we cannot agree to the demands of those who want us to circumvent the ongoing efforts of the Richmond Community Working Group. Its members are, at this very moment, engaged in defining the understandings these binding agreements will include. Given that we don't yet have construction or financing plans in place, the demand that we bypass a deliberative and inclusive process is unfortunate and even irresponsible. We wish instead to take the full measure of the needs and interests of the many, not the few, so we can engage the City and community of Richmond in ways that will be seen as equitable and exemplary in the years and decades ahead. More information about the Working Group is available at <http://chancellor.berkeley.edu/berkeley-global-campus-richmond-bay>.

Having said that, I also want to clarify the University's position in a few other areas related to organized labor, local hiring, financial commitments and housing:

**During Construction funded by UC Berkeley**

- It has been for some time standard practice at UC Berkeley to use union General Contractors. For any construction project at the Global Campus funded by the University, we will require General Contractors to pay prevailing wages as required by the State, while also requiring that they make good faith efforts to hire locally, and support the availability of apprenticeship opportunities for Richmond residents.

**During Construction done by non-University entities**

- We will require non-UC developers---partners who may design, finance, build and operate some of the Global Campus's buildings--- to utilize General Contractors who pay prevailing wages and will enter into agreements with the Building Trades Council, while also requiring that they make good faith efforts to hire locally, and support the availability of apprenticeship opportunities for Richmond residents.

**During Operations/Maintenance of facilities developed and occupied by UC Berkeley**

- For the operations and maintenance of facilities funded, developed and occupied by UC on the Global Campus, we will use AFCSME-represented public employees.

**During Operations/Maintenance of facilities not owned by UC Berkeley**

- For the operation and maintenance of new facilities at the Global Campus not owned by UC we will require that the managers of these buildings use companies that hire represented employees for all facility maintenance and operations, while still meeting the local hire goals. We will also require them to adhere to a local procurement goal that will be defined in an agreement.

**Community Fund**

- The University and the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory have already committed to creating and contributing to a Community Fund, with the annual level of contributions increasing as the development of the Global Campus proceeds. The University plans to work with the Richmond Community Foundation (RCF) to manage the fund, and its priorities will be based on community input.

**Maintaining Housing Affordability In Richmond**

- Some members of the community have expressed concern that UC Berkeley is or will be indifferent regarding the impact that development of the Global Campus could have on the affordability of housing in Richmond. This is not the case. We will in fact address such concerns, with binding commitments and with action. With that clearly and unambiguously stated, the University is, for now, respectfully deferring to the leadership of the City of Richmond with regard to City housing policy. This deference is appropriate given the respective governmental roles of the City and UC Berkeley. At present, the City is actively engaged in the study of its housing strategy as part of its planning process for the South Shoreline Specific Plan and the City's responses to the rapid changes in the regional housing market. Because these planning efforts are currently in process, the City has not yet described in detail how it believes the University can best help the City respond to gentrification pressures and any projected, unmet needs for affordable housing. When the City has determined its priorities and overall strategy UC Berkeley expects to make appropriate legally binding commitments to the City. As far as UC Berkeley is concerned, no idea is off of the table for negotiation -- the University is specifically prepared to consider, for example, the ideas of

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private developer contributions to a City-operated Housing Trust Fund, support for City-planned inclusionary housing, and development of workforce housing to specifically serve the Global Campus. While it is premature for UC Berkeley to make legally binding commitments regarding housing at this time for the reasons I have described, the University fully intends to work with the City to do so at the appropriate time.

Finally, we know that many of those who have been participating in the Working Group, along with other community members, have come to believe that the process would be improved if we were to bring in a third-party facilitator to help mediate and guide our discussions and deliberations. Their point is a good one and they have been heard: We are now in the process of looking for just this sort of assistance.

Sustained engagement and dialogue with you, the people who actually live in the city, is the best and only way we know to get to the understandings that will form the basis of the binding agreements we will sign regarding the University's commitments to the Richmond community. I look forward to our continued partnership and collaboration.

All best,



Nicholas B. Dirks