

THE CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY
OFFICE OF THE CHANCELLOR



BAKERSFIELD

September 5, 2017

CHANNEL ISLANDS

MEMORANDUM

CHICO

DOMINGUEZ HILLS

TO: Faculty, Staff, Students and Community
Humboldt State University

EAST BAY

FROM: Timothy P. White
Chancellor

FRESNO

FULLERTON

SUBJECT: President Lisa A. Rossbacher – Completion of Normally Scheduled Review

HUMBOLDT

LONG BEACH

The California State University Board of Trustees and I formally evaluate campus presidents on a three-year cycle, in addition to annual conferences that I host with each president. I write today to inform you that the presidential review process for President Rossbacher was recently completed, and the Board of Trustees and I are fully confident in the promising future of Humboldt State University under her leadership.

LOS ANGELES

MARITIME ACADEMY

The horizon for public higher education embodies both opportunities and challenges, and we believe that with the Humboldt State community working together on substantive matters you will continue your ascent as a beacon of hope and opportunity through education, research and community engagement. Indeed, HSU's involvement in Graduation Initiative 2025 is vitally important to the state, the California State University (CSU), and to HSU student success.

MONTEREY BAY

NORTHRIDGE

POMONA

SACRAMENTO

The wide and deep spectrum of tasks that the Board and I expect from President Rossbacher in these times is significant. In addition to providing leadership and management for substantive academic, student and administrative issues on campus in a consultative and deliberate shared governance environment, she also has responsibility for engaging off-campus with the broader community, system-wide duties, contributing to national higher education policy conversations, and philanthropic cultivation and stewardship – all of which advance Humboldt State University. As the HSU community is well aware, your geographic location adds significant time and complexity to any trips that President Rossbacher must make, thus decreasing her physical presence on campus while she stays connected to campus at all times through technology.

SAN BERNARDINO

SAN DIEGO

SAN FRANCISCO

SAN JOSÉ

SAN LUIS OBISPO

The purpose of presidential evaluations and conferences is to keep the CSU Board and me properly informed of campus successes and challenges, to develop concurrence on strategic goals going forward, and for the board and me to demonstrate our commitment and support to the success of the campus and campus leadership.

SAN MARCOS

SONOMA

STANISLAUS

As you may know, during the fall term of 2016 we began the normally scheduled three-year evaluation process for President Rossbacher. It was her first comprehensive review since being appointed president, and I invited input from all members of the Humboldt State community. I am grateful to have received feedback from a variety of stakeholders from the campus and community. I thank each of you who took the time to provide substantive and candid input into this review.

I personally read every letter received and thoroughly considered the varied points of view. From that effort, I developed a comprehensive summary of the input for the board to review, while not providing attribution to any individual author. I also wrote my own evaluation of her, informed by the campus and community input and my visits to campus and interactions in the normal course of business with leadership, faculty, students, alumni and staff at Humboldt State.

These two documents, plus summary information on students, academics, employees, diversity, fund raising, operations, athletics and finances were reviewed and discussed in a closed session with the CSU Board of Trustees, President Rossbacher and me. The feedback and discussion led all of us to a better understanding of the campus, the relationship of Humboldt State to the larger community, and to the opportunities and challenges moving forward.

While I acknowledge there is often an interest by others in the details of such discussions, you may be aware that by law (Government Code Sec. 6254(c) and 6255) the results of performance evaluations for any faculty or staff member within the CSU, including our presidents, are confidential. Thus, I do not share specific results with you nor would it be appropriate to do so.

In order to remain attentive to the future of Humboldt State, I will continue to hold an annual conference with President Rossbacher as I do with all twenty-three presidents. Her next formal review with the Board of Trustees and myself will be initiated under current policy in 2020.

Again, I thank you for the wealth of information you shared in this process. It was evident in all of the feedback received that there is strong commitment to the success of Humboldt State University. Please know that both the CSU Board of Trustees and I share in that commitment, as does President Rossbacher.