

June 7, 2002

To: Campus Planning Committee
Dr. Bernard Goldstein, Chief Academic Officer
Mr. Laurence Furukawa-Schlereth, Chief Financial Officer
Dr. Nate Johnson, Director for Public Safety
Mr. Bruce Walker, Senior Director of Planning, Design and Construction
Dr. Rick Luttmann, Chair, Academic Senate
Mr. Thomas Emme, Campus Consulting Architect
Mr. Rick Ludmerer, Senior Director for Risk Management
Ms. Vicki Pannell, Staff Representative
Ms. Stephanie Giordano, Chancellor's Office Planner
Mr. Erick Dunncliff, Student Representative
Mr. Dave Sullins, Student Representative
Dr. Steve Orlick, Professor, ENSP (Faculty rep.)
Dr. Richard Zimmer, Professor of Anthropology, Hutchins School of
Liberal Arts (Faculty rep.)
Dr. Rand Link, Vice President for Student Affairs

From: Ruben Armiñana
President

Subject: Notes from the May 20, 2002
Campus Planning Committee

1. **Student and Employee Safety – Parking on Petaluma Hill Road and East Cotati Avenue.**

Nate Johnson stated that, as the campus chief law enforcement officer, he felt that he had an obligation to bring the hazardous conditions surrounding parking on Petaluma Hill Road and East Cotati Avenue to the attention of the committee. He gave the committee the background and history of decisions made to date concerning parking for approximately 60 cars on the west side of Petaluma Hill road and the north side of East Cotati Avenue including conversations with Sonoma County Roads and the Commander of California Highway Patrol detailing the issues and alternatives. The opinion of these roadway officials was that an unsafe condition existing because of high speed on these corridors and the manner in which drivers would pull into and out of these parallel parking spots. He distributed photographs illustrating the confused patterns of parking and the resulting potential for accidents.

Rick Ludmerer then briefed the committee on his research into campus responsibility for allowing an unsafe parking alternative to exist for its students, staff and faculty. He stated that his duties as Director for Risk Management lead him to research the campus boundaries and the easements that existing on these two roadways. He determined that the campus boundaries go to the middle of each road and that there

was a 43-foot easement with Sonoma County to allow for the building and maintenance of the roads. It was determined, however, that the University still had jurisdiction within that easement and that, should an accident happen, the University could be held responsible. This was new information to the members of the committee who, until this time, had assumed that the jurisdiction was with Sonoma County.

After much discussion concerning previous studies and observed near accidents, the committee agreed that, once the jurisdiction and liabilities were identified as being a University responsibility, the committee had no choice but to recommend that an unsafe condition be eliminated. The committee made a unanimous recommendation to eliminate the parking on both Petaluma Hill road and East Cotati Avenue surrounding the campus. It was agreed that the County should be so notified and that the new parking restrictions should take place over the summer so that the campus community would have time to be educated as to the purpose and the effect. Rick Ludmerer and Nate Johnson will notify the County of the University's decision.