

The Berkeley Global Campus at Richmond Bay

Introduction

Let me begin today by providing the Senate with an update on our plans to develop of a new campus in Richmond. What I'm about to share is incredibly exciting: it involves a transformational model for expansion of our educational and research activities in a global context. The road ahead, however, will be challenging in part for the same reason, since there really is no precedent for what we propose to create.

Until now American universities seeking to expand their global profile have used a single model: establish a physical presence overseas through the construction of a foreign campus or the opening of small, consular-style offices. When I was at Columbia I helped to develop eight consular offices across the world, and at some point we may still pursue that path. But we have now determined a way to launch a new kind of global engagement by staying right here at home. We have the opportunity to become the first American university to establish an international campus in the United States, right here in the East Bay, in Richmond, California.

The project that was once known as the Richmond Bay Campus is now the Berkeley Global Campus at Richmond Bay – BGC for short. If we succeed in pulling this off, it will have at least one Global College, and many new research partnerships and collaborations, all with extensive engagement not just with our main campus here at Berkeley, but with the local community in Richmond as well.

How We Got Here

After it became apparent in 2013 that LBNL's plans for a second campus had to be put on hold because of the loss of a major contract and a new round of federal budget cuts, I, together with a committee comprised of faculty, deans, and senior administrators, decided to treat an unfortunate development as an opportunity to re-think and re-imagine our plans. LBNL remains a steadfast partner in this new venture, but this is now a Berkeley led project. We are fortunate that our new vision dovetails with the Long Range Development Plan that we developed earlier and that the Regents approved in May, as well as with an Environmental Impact Report that has already been completed and certified.

Where We Are

As befits one of the world's leading universities, Berkeley is already highly globalized: our students study in dozens of different countries; our faculty do research and collaborate with scholars in over a hundred countries; thousands of students from overseas study here at Berkeley; and our alumni can be found almost everywhere. We intend to extend and deepen all of these commitments, while at the same time connecting our international endeavors to local needs in our region and state, as well as to our public mission.

The Vision

The vision for the BGC is unabashedly bold. It will be a new form of international hub where an exclusive group of some of the world's leading universities and high tech companies will work side by side with us in a campus setting. It will feature a new Global College focused on collaborative education programs in global citizenship (global governance, global ethics, global cultures, global thought, global challenges, etc.). The Global College will be designed and launched in collaboration with a set of partner global universities—universities that will help us build new facilities and support new programs. And, it will be a

state-of-the-art living laboratory designed to support interdisciplinary, international, and public/private solutions for 21st century challenges in energy, computing, the environment, health, and the global economy. Our partners will be institutions and organizations, both public and private, that have the means and motivation to collaborate on research and educational endeavors designed to advance the greater good, here and around the world. At the same time, as the BGC represents an exciting new model for global engagement and research integration, it will also be deeply tied to the main campus and to the local community through a variety of educational, public health, community outreach, labor, and transportation partnerships.

Research

The BGC will support innovation across the disciplines, for example through partnerships with UCSF in global health; through the integration of algorithms, machines, and social scientists to make sense of Big Data; and through the incorporation of the humanities into ventures ranging from robotics and artificial intelligence to new forms of energy and medical treatment.

A global campus situated in this country also offers significant advantages and protections when it comes to issues that can be problematic for branch campuses located overseas. At home we are on much more solid ground when it comes to protecting and supporting academic freedom, transparency, different forms of advocacy and political engagement, and protection of intellectual property. Situated along the Bay, the BGC campus will be a true safe harbor (a term that universities with branch campuses in mainland Asia and the Middle East use with considerable anxiety).

Educational Mission

We intend to establish at the BGC undergraduate and graduate level academic programs, for international and domestic students, which will be offered and managed by Berkeley and a group of international universities with whom we partner.

A core component of the BGC will be a Global College. The College will seek to prepare students to engage with and contribute to an interdependent world, and provide them with the tools to tackle global challenges through a curriculum centered on global governance, ethics, and political economy; cultural and international relations; and practical engagement through participation in research, development, and other modes of direct involvement in special projects with global implications and applications.

At the core of the Global College could be an elite scholarship program, funded along the lines of the Rhodes Scholars Programs. Highly prestigious and highly competitive, this program would bring together top students with exceptional leadership potential from around the globe for a fully paid, two-year residential program based at the BGC. Each cohort of scholars would engage during their first year with leading faculty from multiple disciplines in a curriculum on global citizenship designed to provide future leaders with a foundation in the primary challenges, intellectual models, and approaches associated with governing the world: issues of government and international institutions, trade and aid, resources and the environment, peace and conflict, and values and ethics in a global context. In the program's second year, each scholar would pursue a track within one of the collaborative research pillars affiliated with the BGC — for example, energy/sustainability, data science, global health, or medicine. This could take the form of research on a team at the BGC, an internship with a BGC corporate partner, or even a year of research and study abroad at a partner university.

Additionally, and supplementing our more traditional “year abroad” models, the BGC could host a new “Global Scholar Program” for UC Berkeley undergraduates, with at least one semester of study abroad

at the overseas campus of the affiliated university, followed by completion of research-intensive studies at that university's site at the BGC.

Community Benefits

One thing that hasn't changed regarding plans for the Richmond campus is our commitment to the community. The BGC will serve as a multi-faceted resource for local communities and will be designed to encourage public access. We remain engaged with a Richmond community that rightly sees the project as a catalyst for developing the City's "South Shoreline" into a vibrant mixture of high-intensity light industrial, commercial, and residential uses. Key aspects of the plan for BGC—including a strong focus on enhancing the site's ecology and the promotion of local and regional road and trail connectivity—directly support Richmond's goals for the South Shoreline Area.

LBNL Director Paul Alivisatos and I have already signed a Joint Statement of Commitment detailing our goals for partnering with the local community throughout this development. The Joint Statement of Commitment addresses local hiring and procurement issues directly by setting voluntary local hiring goals; requiring third party developers to provide prevailing wages; and take a number of steps to encourage local job training and opportunities for women, minority and veteran-owned businesses. A further commitment in the letter was to form a Community Working Group made up of local stakeholders to develop recommendations and proposals for partnerships in education, local employment, procurement, and workforce training. The working group has already been formed and held their second meeting last week.

Finances and Partners

I will be working with you to ensure that the BGC is additive and complementary to all that takes place here on the main campus, which will naturally continue to be the core of the University. In terms of finances I want to emphasize that we have no intention of dedicating substantial central campus resources to this project during a time of continued constraints on our finances. Nor will we be distracted from other important priorities in, for example, the realms of undergraduate education; faculty retention and recruitment; the arts; continued advocacy for public support for our public mission, and a host of other endeavors and initiatives. This University was born in the context of an audacious goal, and the ability to rise to meet both challenges and opportunities remains an inextricable part of our institutional DNA.

With that in mind, we are already having initial, exploratory conversations with a wide range of potential domestic and international partners and the responses have been overwhelmingly enthusiastic. Bob Lallanne, our relatively new but highly experienced Vice Chancellor for Real Estate, is considering a broad variety of partnerships that would generate capital for construction. We would, of course, welcome a return to the days when the California state government was committed to supporting the broad benefits of investing in projects and endeavors that support public higher education, research in the public interest and other university-based activities that generate economic activity, new industries, and new jobs. Alas, it seems unlikely that this will happen any time soon; so with this project we are in the increasingly familiar position of seeking private support to sustain our public mission. We also believe this project will have a great deal of philanthropic appeal for our alumni, friends and supporters. Here, too, our initial conversations with potential donors have been highly encouraging.

The Road Ahead

We do not underestimate the work required to realize our ambitions for BGC. To succeed, our strategy will have to coordinate action across numerous fronts: it is about research and funding; alumni and

fundraising; about pedagogy and students; it is about tapping into a global pool of talent and resources for our use and our investment. Additionally, the project is about economic development, community relations, and old-fashioned politics.

The real test of this project, however, will come through constructive and continuous engagement with you, the faculty. For in the end, success will be determined by the extent to which this project provides new opportunities for the faculty to engage in new forms of research and engagement with students across and beyond the university. If successful, our global footprint will create opportunities in a wide variety of areas, bringing resources to the university community we haven't even begun to imagine.

There will be those who will question the scope and timing of this venture; who will cast doubt on our ability to take on new challenges at a time when our financial model remains stressed and the memories of fiscal crisis remain fresh. Yet, I believe that we have an obligation to ourselves, to our stakeholders, and to the public we serve, to be the Berkeley that has always stood for innovation; for bold thinking; for disdain for the status quo; and, of course, for the greater good. The stakes could not be higher: if the challenges we face are global in scale and transcend both national borders and traditional academic boundaries, then we are obliged to adapt the manner and methods of our research and teaching accordingly. In my inaugural address I stated that, "any liberal arts education in the 21st century must include significant attention to the global contexts that not just inform but now constitute the world in which we live." And, I continue to hold firm to the belief that we must adapt, evolve and respond to the changing needs and interests of students who share our desire to engage the future with all of the resources we have here in this great University.

In that context, I am convinced that we all have a stake in the success of the Berkeley Global Campus, given the opportunity we now have to make real the notion of global connectivity; to bring new resources to the main campus; and to open up the world for all of us in a way no other model could. You will be hearing more about our plans and progress in the months ahead, and I look forward to maintaining a constructive partnership with the Senate as we open a new chapter in Berkeley's story.