February 24, 2014

HARRIS A. LEWIN, VICE CHANCELLOR FOR RESEARCH
Office of Research
University of California, Davis
1850 Research Park Drive, Suite 300
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RE: Request for Comments on the Crocker Nuclear Laboratory 5-Year Review

The review committee’s 5-year review report on the Crocker Nuclear Laboratory (CNL) Organized Research Unit (ORU) was forwarded to all Davis Division of the Academic Senate standing committees and Faculty Executive Committees from the Schools and Colleges. Responses were received from the Committee on Planning and Budget, Graduate Council, and the Committee on Research, as well as from the Faculty Executive Committee from the College of Letters and Science.

The committees generally recognize the great value of the services provided by CNL, but also concur with the review's conclusion that CNL should not continue to be operated as an ORU. The Davis Division of the Academic Senate agrees with the review’s assertion that CNL should be restructured and the ORU should be retired. The Academic Senate supports the review’s suggestion to split the two main operations of CNL, the IMPROVE air quality and visibility program and the cyclotron beam facility.

The Committee on Planning and Budget and Graduate Council both recommend that the IMPROVE program be merged with the Air Quality Research Center.

The Committee on Research (COR) agrees that the operations within the Crocker Nuclear Lab now function more like a service unit rather than an ORU and would support a proposal to merge the operation of the cyclotron with the McClellan Nuclear Research Center. An alternative suggested by the Committee on Planning and Budget is to operate the beam facility as a campus service recharge unit.

The Davis Division of the Academic Senate urges the administration to find a structure for CNL other than an ORU that will benefit the campus without interrupting the important services of the unit. The Davis Division of the Academic Senate appreciates the opportunity to respond to the Crocker Nuclear Laboratory (CNL) ORU review.

Sincerely,

Bruno Nachtergaele, Chair
Davis Division of the Academic Senate
Professor: Mathematics