

Trustee



Robert C. Dynes

By all appearances, Robert C. Dynes couldn't be more delighted with where he is today. "I've said this many times: UC San Diego is the most innovative, creative university in the world, and it happens to be in one of the loveliest places on earth."

Bob Dynes served as the sixth chancellor of UC San Diego from 1996 to 2003, and was the 18th president of the University of California (2003 to 2008). A one-time aspiring hockey player (he skated on the Toronto Maple Leafs' under-18 team) and first-generation college graduate, Bob is a distinguished physicist who was recruited to UC San Diego in 1990 after a 22-year career at AT&T Bell Laboratories, where he served as department head of semiconductor and material physics research and director of chemical physics research. His numerous scientific honors include the 1990 Fritz London Award in Low Temperature Physics, his election to the National Academy of Sciences in 1989 and to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences in 1994.

As a UC San Diego physics professor, Bob founded an interdisciplinary laboratory where chemists, electrical engineers, and private industry researchers investigated the properties of metals, semiconductors, and superconductors. Bob became chairman of the Department of Physics and then senior vice chancellor for Academic Affairs before accepting the chancellorship.

In 2008, Bob rejoined the faculty of UC San Diego in the Department of Physics. He has also joined the boards of Argonne National Laboratory, the review panel for the Canadian Foundation for Innovation, the Helmholtz Foundation in Germany, and the San Diego Foundation. He currently chairs the National Radiation Studies Board for the National Academy of Sciences.

Active in the national scientific arena, he is a fellow of the American Physical Society, the Canadian Institute for Advanced Research, and the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. He has served on the Executive Committee of the U.S. Council on Competitiveness, the California Commission for Jobs and Economic Growth, and the Governor's Nurse Education Initiative Task Force. He is a Fellow of the California Council on Science and Technology and a member of the Business-Higher Education Forum.

A native of London, Ontario, Canada, and a naturalized United States citizen, Bob holds a bachelor's degree in mathematics and physics and an honorary doctor of laws degree from the University of Western Ontario, and master's and doctoral degrees in physics and an honorary doctor of science degree from McMaster University. He also holds an honorary doctorate from L'Université de Montréal. He is married to Ann Parode Dynes, the former campus counsel of UC San Diego.

When asked why, after living and working in so many interesting places, he returned to UC San Diego, Bob says, "I'm interested in UC San Diego being a premier research university, and getting the best students in the world.

"Plus, there's nothing like Southern California in terms of quality of life. This morning I opened the door, walked across the street and jumped in the ocean."