SDSU President announces retirement
By SARAH HORNE, Staff Writer

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The Imperial Valley impact of SDSU President Stephen Weber’s retirement is not yet clear.

San Diego State University’s Weber announced his retirement, effective July 5, 2011, via a video message Tuesday morning. Weber became SDSU’s seventh president in 1996.

“I am so proud of the work you have done,” Weber said in the video addressing the campus community. “I look forward to working with you to accomplish the goals we have set for this coming year.”

Weber has affirmed his commitment to the Imperial Valley campus as recently as Monday night during his SDSU-IV campus visit. He said there hasn’t and will not be a plan to withdraw from the Valley.

SDSU-IV Dean David Pearson said he expects the successor will share Weber’s interest in community and diversity.

“My sense is that sort of ethos is virtually inevitable to whoever is Weber’s successor,” Pearson said.

A memo has already been sent by University Senate chairman Bill Snavely requesting nominations for advisers to the trustees’ committee that will be electing the new president.

Pearson said he doesn’t know what role SDSU-IV will play in the selection process but he hopes Imperial Valley’s interests will be represented.

Monica Cortez, SDSU-IV development coordinator, said dates for the selection process have not been set as the retirement was so recently announced.

To see Weber’s video message, visit:


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FIVE SDSU ACCOMPLISHMENTS UNDER PRESIDENT STEPHEN WEBER

1 — HIGHER ACADEMIC STRUCTURE

SDSU has ranked as the top research university among schools with 14 or fewer Ph.D. programs for four years running and eight Ph.D. programs were added. SDSU has also ranked among the top five universities for applications received and had a 167 percent increase in 2010.

2 — GREATER STUDENT SUCCESS AND DIVERSITY

The average GPA for incoming freshmen rose from 3.18 in 1998 to 3.63 for 2010’s freshman class, and average SAT scores rose from 983 to 1085. Graduation rates increased 73.8 percent and the number of minority graduates has risen from 1,573 to 2,771 since 1996.

3 — INCREASED DONATIONS

SDSU increased private donations by 300 percent from what it had received in its 99-year history. The university has raised $683 million since 1996, $65 million in the past year and Weber hopes to raise another
$75 million by July 2011.

4 — URBAN EDUCATION REFORMATION

Weber established the Compact for Success partnership with school districts in San Diego that has more than doubled the number of students who have applied to SDSU through the guaranteed admission program. Through the City Heights Educational Collaborative three inner-city schools are run by SDSU, at which many SDSU College of Education teachers are trained.

5 — PHYSICAL GROWTH OF CAMPUS

Over the past 14 years more than $670 million in new facilities has been built on the SDSU campus, only 25 percent of which are state-funded. Additions include the BioScience center and the Parma Payne Goodall Alumni Center. The San Diego Trolley was also extended to SDSU.

— Information for this was taken from the San Diego State University’s Presidential Transition Web site, http://newscenter.sdsu.edu/transition/weberlegacy.aspx?