

Acknowledgments

This volume grew out of a conference held at the University of California, Riverside, in February 2000. During the three days of the conference, participants heard of many things: bean bag curricula, investments in technological fool's gold, amoebas in baskets, fox princes and their snail cousins, and higher education's journey from Williamstown to Las Vegas. The conference will be remembered not only for vivid metaphors but also for the festival of stimulating conversation it produced. Papers presented at the conference have been substantially revised for this volume. I would like to thank the authors for their good humor in the face of my many queries and editorial suggestions. In addition to the contributors to this volume, a number of other distinguished scholars and social critics presented papers at the conference. They included Troy Duster, David John Frank, Thomas L. Haskell, Zachary Karabell, L. Scott Miller, Masao Miyoshi, Thomas Mortenson, Guy Neave, Cary Nelson, David Noble, Mary Poovey, Sheldon Rothblatt, Jack H. Schuster, James Sheehan, Lee S. Shulman, Keith F. Widaman, and Longxi Zhang. These people contributed greatly, not only to the success of the conference but also to the quality of this volume.

Financial support for the conference was provided by the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation, the University of California Humanities Research Institute, the University of California Office of the President, the University of California, Riverside Center for Ideas and Society, and the University of California, Riverside Office of the Dean of the College of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences. I am grateful for the support of these institutions. I would also like to thank Georgia Elliott for her help with fund-raising. Trudy Cohen, Marilyn Davis, Antonette Toney, and,

especially, the magnificently calm and competent Laura Lara helped to make the conference a success through their organizational wizardry. Bob Clark, Clark Kerr, Woody Powell, Sheldon Rothblatt, and Jack Schuster deserve thanks for advice that contributed to the liveliness of the conference and, ultimately, to the quality of this volume.

Claremont, CA