Dr. Robert R. Roberts, 63, one of the first faculty members to join the planning staff for the future California State College, San Bernardino, died Monday afternoon, Feb. 13 at St. Bernadine's Hospital in San Bernardino.

Dr. Roberts, professor of history and first chair of the Division of Social Sciences, had taught his classes through the end of the fall quarter. He had been hospitalized for about a month after leukemia was diagnosed.

"The entire campus community joins in extending deepest sympathy to the Roberts family," said President Anthony H. Evans. "Dr. Roberts was vitally involved in the creation of this college. He and the other planners who labored diligently to give a sound academic foundation to the new institution left a legacy for future generations to carry forward."

Founding President John M. Pfau hired his former graduate school colleague at the University of Chicago to join the planning staff for the new college on June 30, 1963, luring him from an associate professor position at San Jose State College. Dr. Roberts played a major role in curriculum development for the new school. Among other tasks he wrote all of the social sciences course descriptions for the first catalog.

Dr. Roberts was described by those who worked for him as a very considerate and kind person and by his colleagues as an academician who gave strong leadership in curriculum review and development.

Speaking for the faculty at the inauguration of the first president, Dr. Roberts said, "The staff at the new state college was dedicated to the finest possible kind of humanistic education." In the college's first yearbook, T Tauri, he wrote: "A large and well-equipped campus is in our future, but few who were here will forget the novelties of a primitive campus, both the foolish and the effective efforts to organize and to build. I do not know which decisions we may regret or which ones we will look back upon with satisfaction, but I do know that the whole year was a unique experience in college life."

Dr. Roberts was chair of the Division of Social Sciences until 1971, when he began a six-year stint as chair of the Department of History. His successor as division chair, Dr. Ward McAfee, became the first dean of the School of Social Sciences when titles were changed in 1972.
Born Oct. 9, 1920 in Changsha, China, of missionary parents, Dr. Roberts earned his B.A. from Whitman College and his M.A. and Ph.D. from the University of Chicago. His field was history and his dissertation was on "Political and Economic Issues in the Social Gospel Movement."

After beginning his teaching career at Drury College in Missouri in 1949-51, he taught at Mankato State College in Minnesota from 1952-59 and moved to San Jose State in 1959.

His widow, Ruth, also is a graduate of Whitman College. They have four children and 10 grandchildren, who survive. Son, David, is the president of a computer company in Los Angeles. Daughter Leslie and her husband, Gene Clements, live in San Francisco, where Leslie is employed by the State Division of Labor Statistics and Research. The two youngest children are attorneys. Donald practices in Los Angeles and Nancy in Washington, D.C., where she lives with her husband, Neil Grunberg.

Services will be later in the week. Arrangements are still incomplete, however, friends will be welcomed at the home after the services. In lieu of flowers, memorials are preferred to the Faculty and Staff Scholarship Fund in the College Foundation.

Information on the services will be available from the School of Social and Behavioral Sciences, Ext. 7221, as soon as it is received from the family.