

CHANGES IN THE ACADEMIC SENATE OFFICE

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT COMMUNITY

Dear Colleagues:

I am writing to let you know about changes in the Office of the Systemwide Academic Senate.

As any of you know, Maria Bertero-Barcelo, Executive Director and Chief of Staff to The Academic Senate, retired from the University effective June 27, 2008, after over 35 years of extraordinary University service, 15 years with the Senate and over 10 as the Executive Director. In a time of transition, she served as bedrock of stability and knowledge as the inaugural Chief of Staff to the Senate and chief policy consultant and historian. Maria has been a source of administrative innovation, putting in place a new organization and hiring highly credentialed professional staff, well able to serve the ever-growing needs of shared governance in a ten-campus system. She managed the Senate budget with great skill and resourcefulness, ensuring that even in times of fiscal stress, the Senate could meet its unique obligations, now and in the future. Maria demonstrated an exceptional capacity for sustained effort, especially during trying times, and met the unique challenge of working smoothly and successfully with leadership in the Senate that changed yearly.

Senate Chairs especially prized her adroit balance between being diplomatic and direct, and proudly call attention to her leadership as a role model for all professional staff in this great academic institution. Maria, her work and her dedication to the institution, will be long remembered with respect and affection. The Academic Senate is honored to have had her services for so long and accords Executive Director and Chief of Staff Maria Bertero-Barcelo our highest commendation. It is not possible to replace Maria, but we have refilled the position with needed expertise and skill.

I am announcing that after a national search, employing a highly efficient and effective committee chaired by Academic Senate Vice Chair Mary Croughan, the Academic Senate Office has chosen to hire Martha Winnacker, J.D., as Executive Director and Chief of Staff. I invite you to stop by the office and welcome her. She comes to us most recently from the Contra Costa County public defender's office but was previously at the Office of the President. Some of you may know her from her time as Executive Assistant and Special Assistant for Policy in the Information Resources and Communications department or from her earlier work in Academic Affairs, where she staffed a number of Universitywide committees, including a task force on copyright and the committees overseeing the Pacific Rim Research Program and the President's Initiative in the Humanities. She left UCOP to complete law school and work as a public interest attorney, serving as a judicial law clerk and public defender in Alaska and a legal aid attorney and public defender in California.

She received her law degree from UC Berkeley's Law School (Boalt) and has a Masters degree in History from Berkeley and a Bachelor's degree from Pomona College. Ms. Winnacker possesses a highly refined sense of process, as well as negotiation and mediation skills, -- qualities which should serve the Senate and shared governance well. She has experience as a

supervisor and has managed budgets effectively. She also has worked with, and for, faculty and understands not only what she is getting into, but also how to manage those relations. At a personal level, she is dedicated to UC's academic and public mission, and sees UC as a beacon of hope and opportunity that must be treasured not just for what it has meant to her, but also for what it means for succeeding generations.

It is with great pleasure that Incoming Chair Croughan and I welcome Martha Winnacker to the position of Executive Director and Chief of Staff to The Academic Senate.

Cordially,

Michael T. Brown, Chair
Chair, Academic Council