

A message from President Yudof: Leadership of External Relations at UCOP

November 5, 2008

Dear Colleagues:

It is with regret, but also with understanding, that I write to inform you that Alan Hoffman, who has been serving as Senior Vice President for External Relations, is leaving the University. As you may know, Alan served for many years as Chief of Staff to U.S. Senator Joseph Biden. Alan left that position earlier this year, long before it was known that Senator Biden would be the Democratic nominee for the Vice Presidency of the United States. Alan informed me several weeks ago that the changed circumstances would likely require him to reconsider his appointment with UC. With yesterday's election results, Alan is returning to Washington, effective immediately, to take a senior role in the transition for the new Administration.

Alan's move to Washington is a substantial loss for the University, but I understand and respect his decision. He has a great opportunity not only to serve his longtime mentor and friend, but to apply his tremendous skills to national service in a new and exciting capacity. And, as a silver lining, he will bring to the White House a special understanding of the needs and contributions of public higher education!

The departments within External Relations at the Office of the President will be reporting to Dan Dooley, currently Vice President for Agriculture and Natural Resources, on an interim basis. Dan is a highly respected individual across the state and in Sacramento who has decades of experience in developing constituent and legislative support for important public policy priorities. I am grateful to him for his willingness to serve in this additional role. In the near future I will begin a search for the permanent leadership of External Relations.

I intend to move ahead with the consolidation of the Communications operation at the Office of the President, an effort to which Alan devoted much of his attention during his time with UC. Hiring is now under way for the leadership of a newly constituted Communications unit, and we expect to announce the leadership of the new unit shortly. Hiring for the rest of the unit will follow, under the supervision of Vice President Dooley. Having a strong central Communications operation is imperative as we face the many challenges of the coming months. I support the organizational structure that Alan developed for the new unit and look forward to its implementation.

Please join me in wishing Alan all the best in his new life in Washington and in thanking Dan for his willingness to take on this added responsibility.

Sincerely,

Mark G. Yudof
President