

**Academic Senate Task Force for UC Merced  
Chair's Report to the Academic Assembly  
May 28, 2003**

The UC Merced Task Force was established as a special committee in 1998 by action of the Academic Council and Assembly to serve as a Senate for UC Merced until it is established as a Division. The Task Force votes in accordance with Bylaw 55 on all new faculty appointments, approves curriculum and courses of instruction, and advises the Chancellor or Provost on all administrative appointments, campus development, physical planning, and budget. The Task Force membership includes a Chair, representatives from each of the nine Divisions and leaders from six systemwide Academic Senate Committees (Appendix I).

**Campus Planning and Progress**

UC Merced is scheduled to open in fall 2004 with approximately 1000 students. At that time, the new campus will have one academic building and a student housing/dining facility. Facilities at Castle Air Force Base will be used for faculty offices and research labs. It is anticipated that the Leo and Dottie Kolligian Library, the Engineering/Natural Sciences Building, and a Wellness/Recreation center will be completed during 2005. Because UCM is not yet accredited, the campus will use systems at UC Davis to issue financial aid and for other admissions and registration functions.

**New Appointments**

Task Force members are key participants in UCM's academic search process. The Task Force serves as the department and votes on all faculty appointments and, together with other UC faculty, serve on search committees, vet files, and meet candidates. The Deans of the Natural Sciences and Engineering Divisions continue to lead the search for candidates to fill the senior ranks in their programs. Publicized announcements for seminars given by faculty candidates at a UC host campus, are regularly distributed to host campus faculty and Task Force members, and much useful feedback have been drawn from them. As of May 1, 2003, nine founding faculty have been hired and will begin their appointments on July 1, 2003. These scholars will be instrumental in formulating the shape and emphasis of courses, curriculum and research; in hiring other faculty; and generally determining the direction of the new campus. UCM had originally planned to open with 80 ladder faculty, but that plan has already been scaled down to 60 ladder faculty because of the fiscal situation.

Members of the Task Force also serve on the search committees for major administrative appointments. During 2002-2003, the following appointments were made:

- Dean of Graduate Studies and Vice Chancellor for Research
- Dean for the Social Sciences, Humanities and Arts
- Director of the Sierra Nevada Research Institute
- Vice Chancellor for University Advancement

The search continues for a Director for the World Cultures Institute, which will promote an understanding of the diverse peoples of California through the social sciences, humanities and the arts.

## **UCM CAP**

UCM appointments are reviewed by a Committee on Academic Personnel whose members are appointed by the Academic Council, on the recommendation of the University Committee on Academic Personnel (UCAP). The UCM CAP has initiated discussions with the Task Force and Provost about UCM's policy for off-scale appointments.

## **Academic Structure**

The Task Force recommended that the Regential Standing Orders be amended to include UCM's Academic Schools and Colleges. (UCM is composed of three Schools, a College and a Graduate Division all of which act as one faculty to the maximum degree permitted by the systemwide Senate bylaws.) The Academic Assembly at its March 2003 meeting approved the proposed amendments, and they will be brought to the Regents for action in July.

UCM will be organized into three Schools, each headed by a Dean, and into a number of Colleges. The Colleges are the homes of undergraduate students and are organized along interdisciplinary themes not yet chosen. They provide student services and an interdisciplinary program or programs that include general education. Students may choose colleges and majors independently. Graduate students will initially be in an Individual Graduate Programs and later in Graduate Groups. Faculty members will belong to both a College and to a School, which is the locus of faculty hiring. They may also belong to one or more interdisciplinary institute/s, ORUs or MRUs. The Task Force approved a plan for an academic structure that defines and fosters an interdisciplinary research relationship across programs in the various Schools and Institutes (Appendix II).

## **Undergraduate Council**

The Task Force formally established an Undergraduate Council with the authority to advise TF on all purely undergraduate matters. The Task Force has delegated the authority to approve Summer Session courses to the Undergraduate Council and, with the arrival of UCM faculty, anticipates delegating the authorities usually exercised by Courses and Curricula, Educational Policy, and Admissions Committees to that body. At present, the membership of the Undergraduate Council is composed of several Task Force members, the Deans, and the Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs. Task Force actions in the area of undergraduate affairs include:

- The development by Undergraduate Council and approval by the Task Force of *Regulations Governing Undergraduate Students*, which include policies on the grading system, minimum standards of progress towards completion of degrees; UCM's founding principles of community, and necessary variances from the systemwide grading requirements, for instance the use of pluses and minuses have been requested.
- The approval of a modified *Five-Year Perspectives Report* outlining degree programs offered in UCM's first five years (Appendix III).
- The approval of an Undergraduate Council report on *Part-Time Enrollment*.

- The approval of an Admissions Policy for Transfer Students developed by the Undergraduate Council.

### **Graduate Council**

The Task Force established a Graduate Council with the authority to review graduate program proposals. All graduate approval matters will be reviewed by the Graduate Council before coming to the Task Force for approval. Task Force actions in the area of graduate affairs include:

- A proposal for an Individual Graduate Program (IGP) developed by the Graduate Dean and a past CCGA Chair. The IGP will be an interim mechanism leading to the M.S., M.A., and Ph.D. degrees. It will serve as an umbrella over the five graduate areas until enough faculty are hired for UCM to offer degrees in each of these areas.

### **Gifts and Endowments**

As Endowed Chair agreements reach a mature stage, the Vice Chancellor of University Advancement sends forward the details about the agreement with a request for formal approval by the Task Force. One Chair (in Mass Communications) was added in 2002-2003, which brings the total number of Endowed Chairs to 14 (Appendix IV). Funds raised from private sources will total \$34.5 million by the end of fiscal year 2002-2003. New gifts and pledges in the past year included a \$5 million pledge from the Gallo Foundation for a School of Management and a \$229,276 grant to create digital copies of the prestigious art and research collection of the Ruth and Sherman Lee Institute for Japanese Art.

### **Conclusion/Looking Forward**

The role of the UC Merced Task Force is expected to gradually diminish in 2003-2004. As senior faculty are hired, substantial authority will be delegated to bodies made up mostly or even entirely of UCM faculty. Where the previous years of Task Force existence have been dedicated to serving as a Senate, its role will shift to building an enduring UCM Division that will carry on the proud UC institution of meaningful shared governance.

## Appendix I: 2002/03 Task Force Members

### **Task Force Membership:**

Peter Berck, B, Task Force Chair  
Robert Flocchini, D, Task Force Vice Chair  
Gayle Binion, SB, Chair-Academic Council  
Cliff Brunk, LA, CCGA  
Richard Fateman, B, Campus Rep.  
Barbara Gerbert, UCSF, Campus Rep.  
Andrew Grosovsky, R, UCEP  
Ramon Gutierrez, SD, UCAP  
Doug Magde, SD, Campus Rep.  
Alexei Maradudin, I, UCORP  
Otoniel Martinez-Maza, LA, Campus Rep.  
Geoff Mason, SC, UCM CAP Chair  
Mark Matsumoto, R, Campus Rep.  
Doug Morgan, SB, Campus Rep.  
Barbara Sawrey, SD, BOARS  
Lawrence Pitts, SF, Vice-Chair-Academic Council  
Janice Plastino, I Alt., Campus Rep.  
John Poulos, D, UCM CAP Vice Chair  
Anthony Pratkanis, SC, Campus Rep.  
Richard Price, SF, UCPB  
Paul Wright, B, Campus Rep.

## Appendix II – The Institutes

The University's first two research institutes will begin to define UC Merced as a research university of distinction. Both will create new knowledge on questions of national and international scope through the prism of the natural laboratory that is Merced's home, the San Joaquin Valley and Sierra Nevada region.

The **Sierra Nevada Research Institute (SNRI)** will carry out research on the critical issues that affect humankind's ability to live in an environmentally sustainable way: population growth and development, water and watersheds, air quality, fire ecology, biodiversity, climate change, transportation, resource management and policy, and public recreation. These issues are especially vital to sustaining the unparalleled agricultural resources and magnificent natural landscapes of the San Joaquin Valley and Sierra Nevada. The Sierra Nevada Research Institute will draw in the natural sciences, engineering, and policy sciences.

**World Cultures Institute:** As a natural laboratory for research of international import, the San Joaquin Valley is defined by the mobility and migration, and sometimes forced diasporas, of peoples affected by historical events. Migration and immigration studies will address questions of building community among a diverse population. The history of migrations and Diasporas will be complemented by studies of the impact of such human and social changes on established peoples and resources. The World Cultures Institute will weave together humanities, arts, and social sciences.

## Appendix III – Five-year Perspectives Report

### UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, MERCED FIVE-YEAR PERSPECTIVES REPORT FOR 2004-5 to 2007-08

#### Programs planned for 2004-05

- B.S. in Computer Science and Engineering
- B.S. in Environmental Engineering
- B.S. in Biological Sciences [replaces B.A./B.S. in Biological Sciences]
- B.S. in Earth Systems Sciences [replaces B.A./B.S. in Earth Systems Sciences]
- B. A. in World Cultures and History
- B.A./B.S. in Social and Behavioral Sciences
- M.A./M.S./Ph.D. in Individual Graduate Program [addition]
- M.S./Ph.D. in Computer and Information Systems
- M.S./Ph.D. in Environmental Systems
- M.S./Ph.D. in Quantitative Biology [formerly Systems Biology]
- M.A./Ph.D. in World Cultures
- M.S./Ph.D. in Social and Behavioral Sciences

#### Programs planned for 2005-06

- B.S. in Bio Engineering
- B.S. in Mechanical Engineering
- B.S. in Mathematics/Statistics [formerly B.S. in Statistics]
- B.A. in Human Biology and Behavior [formerly B.A. in Human Biology]
- [Eliminate: B.S. in Chemistry/Biochemistry—see 2006-07 list]
- B.A. in Literature and Languages [name change from Comparative Literature and Languages]
- B.A. in Public Policy

School of Management—B.S. [to be added in later years: MBA, Ph.D.]

M.S./Ph.D. in Bio Engineering

Programs planned for 2006-07

B.S. in Electrical Engineering

B.S. in Industrial and Systems Engineering

B.S. in Chemistry

B.S. in Nursing [baccalaureate completion program linked to CCC RN programs]

M.S./Ph.D. in Mechanical Engineering

M.S./Ph.D. in Chemistry and Chemical Biology

M.S./Ph.D. in Physics and Astronomy

Programs planned for 2007-08

B.S. in Chemical Engineering [formerly planned for 2005-06]

B.S. in Materials Science and Engineering

B.S. in Physics and Astronomy

M.S./Ph.D. in Electrical Engineering

Programs planned for 2005-06 through 2007-08

Two-three additions each year, selected from the following:

BA Performance Studies

BA Art History

BA/BS Psychology

BA/BS Economics

BA History

BA/BS Anthropology

BA Sociology

BA Political Science

## Appendix IV – Endowed Chairs

### UC Merced Endowed Chairs:

#14	Merced Sun Star Chair in Mass Communications	\$500,000
#13	Presidential Chair	\$500,000
#12	Coelho Chair in Public Policy	\$500,000
#11	Carlston Cunningham Endowed Chair in Cognitive Development	\$500,000
#10	Thondapu Family Endowed Chair in World Cultures	\$500,000
#9	Joe and Margaret Josephine Endowed Chair in Biological Sciences	\$500,000
#8	Art and Fafa Kamangar Family Endowed Chair in Biological Sciences	\$500,000
#7	County Bank of Merced Endowed Chair in Economics	\$500,000
#6	Dr. and Mrs. William Bizzini Endowed Chair in Biological Sciences	\$500,000
#5	Ted and Jan Falasco Endowed Chair in Earth Sciences or Geology	\$500,000
#4	Myers Endowed Chair for Sierra Nevada Research Institute ( <i>New</i> )	\$500,000
#3	Shaffer Endowed Chair in Engineering	\$500,000
#2	Coats Endowed Chair in the Arts	\$500,000
#1	Vincent Hillyer Endowed Chair in Early Literature	\$500,000

### Pending:

#15	Fred Ruiz Chair in Business	\$500,000
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