

Academic Senate Task Force for UC Merced
May 29, 2002
Chair's Report to the Academic Assembly

The UC Merced Task Force is a special committee of the Assembly and of the Academic Council. It acts as a Senate for UC Merced until the establishment of a Division. The activities of the Task Force (TF) include advice on appointments, physical planning, university advancement, curriculum, courses, and establishment of colleges and other subdivisions of UCM, majors, and graduate programs. In these activities the TF has taken on all the roles normally filled by the Senate, from the approval of courses and curricula, a responsibility delegated by the Regents to the Senate, to advice on campus layout.

University Advancement

The TF has a particularly close cooperation with University Advancement. The Vice Chancellor, Jim Erickson, attends nearly every meeting to update the TF and seeks the TF's advice on funding opportunities. Since the inception of the campus the TF has approved 12 named chairs and has approved, in concept, an additional 6 chairs. The TF has been an active participant in structuring the gift language in these chairs to meet the needs of the campus and also fulfill the goals of the donors. Appendix I lists the chairs, to date.

The TF has also approved a giving plan that will lead to a substantial endowment for a School of Management.

The TF has been kept abreast of, and approved of, development activities that will bring the campus a role in a major art collection and many other gifts.

The TF is very appreciative of the support that UCM has received from its many donors and for their cooperation in shaping the gifts to the maximum benefit of the campus.

Appointments

The TF participates in all academic and high-level administrative appointments. Participation usually includes TF members serving on the search committee, TF Committee on Committees advice to the Chancellor on membership of administrative search committees, TF members' attendance, in person, by video, or by phone, at campus interviews, and formal advice from the TF to the Chancellor on appointments. This year the TF advised on the following appointments:

- Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs
- Dean for Division of Engineering
- Dean for Division of Natural Sciences
- Graduate Dean and Vice Chancellor-Research
- Director for the Sierra Nevada Research Institute (SNRI)

The TF is currently actively engaged in recruiting a Vice Chancellor for University Advancement (to replace Jim Erickson on his re-retirement), a Chief Information Officer,

and a Dean for the Division of Social Science, Humanities and Arts (SS/H/A). A search for a Director of the World Cultures Institute is scheduled to begin soon.

Where the appointments include Professorial titles, the TF has acted as a department to prepare the personnel case. These cases are then referred to the UCM CAP, which is a separate entity from the TF.

UCM is now recruiting for faculty positions. The three Divisions of UCM each act as departments for these searches, with the Deans taking the role of Chairs. In the case of the SS/H/A Division, the Chancellor and the EVC are taking the Dean's role while a Dean is being recruited. Members of the TF, assisted by other members of the UC faculty, are acting as the faculty members for each of these Divisions and are screening candidates. They will shortly be hosting campus visits and voting on appointments.

At the request of the TF, the faculty recruiting process is an on-going process with a broad set of position descriptions that were approved by the TF and applications are accepted continuously. At opening day, the campus is now scheduled to have 60 faculty in the professorial series. This is considerably lower than the 100 anticipated originally and the TF considers this number to be the irreducible minimum to open the campus. As planning continues, it is unclear exactly how much of the planned curriculum can be carried out by this reduced cohort.

Courses and Curriculum; Organizational Structure

The TF approved a structure for UCM that includes three Divisions, Engineering, Natural Science, and Social Science, Humanities, and Arts. These Divisions will be the Rule 55 units for the initial faculty. Within these Divisions the TF has approved concentrations of faculty and programs in environmental engineering, computer science and engineering, biological science, earth system science, economics, psychology, history, and literature. In subsequent years, additional concentrations will be added. In recruiting to these general areas, there will also be consideration given to the interdisciplinary research institutes--the Sierra Nevada Research Institute, and the World Cultures Institute. Soon after opening, the TF expects that a management major will be added to the curriculum, as the first element of a School of Management. The TF has given formal assent for the establishment of the management program.

In March, the Task Force approved UCM's five-year perspective that included the academic program planning for the SS/H/A Division, Natural Sciences Division, Engineering Division, and a Management Program. Prior to this formal approval, the TF engaged in considerable discussion about the exact nature of the original majors and the graduate programs. This plan includes the initial majors and initial graduate groups. In the next year, the TF and Deans expect to develop, and the TF expects to approve, the majors and the courses that go with those majors. This planning is now well underway.

The Task Force approved the formation of an Advisory Group-Surrogate Graduate Council to assist in approving graduate programs. Several past CCGA Chairs have agreed to participate in this group. Its purpose is to help the Divisions write their graduate program proposals and to assist the Task Force in approving the proposals on behalf of the campus. The Task Force also recommended that UCM use policies already established by one of the other UC campuses for its Graduate Division. The initial

graduate programs will be graduate groups, to permit the participation by a broad range of UCM faculty and to facilitate the participation of other UC faculty who will be necessary to help staff the graduate programs.

College System

The TF approved a proposal to establish a college system for UC Merced. The college system at Merced will be non-residentially based so that all students may participate. Space for the first college has already been identified in one of the initial three buildings (the Library building). Students from all three Divisions will be enrolled in the colleges.

Conclusion

The academic planning for UCM is on schedule for a 2004 opening day. Before that day, there are still environmental permitting issues, monetary issues, and the issues of academic planning and faculty hiring to be resolved. The TF looks forward to a continued close cooperation with Chancellor Tomlinson-Keasey, EVC Ashley, the other Vice Chancellors and Deans, and to the development of a research university of the first order.

Appendix I: Endowed Chairs

Negotiations are ongoing concerning another five chairs.

#13 Presidential Chair

These Chairs were approved by formal action of the Task Force:

#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

\$500,000

#3 Shaffer Endowed Chair in Engineering

\$500,000

#2 Coates Endowed Chair in the Arts

\$500,000

#1 Vincent Hillyer Endowed Chair in Early Literature

\$500,000

Appendix II: Programs

Programs planned for 2004-05

B.S.-Computer Science and Engineering
B.S. in Environmental Engineering
B.A./B.S. in Biological Sciences
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.S./Ph.D. in Computer and Information Systems
M.S./Ph.D. in Environmental Systems
M.S./Ph.D. in Systems Biology
M.A./Ph.D. in World Cultures
M.S./Ph.D. in Behavioral Sciences

Programs planned for 2005-06

School of Management
B.S. in Chemical Engineering
B.A. in Comparative Literature and Languages
B.S. in Public Policy

Appendix III – 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 IV: 2001/02 TF Members/Meeting Participants

Task Force Membership:

Peter Berck, B, Task Force Chair
Robert Flocchini, D, Task Force Vice Chair
Gayle Binion, SB, Vice Chair-Academic Council
Cliff Brunk, LA, CCGA
Richard Fateman, B, Campus Rep.
Andrew Grosovsky, R, UCEP
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.
Maria Pallavicini, SF, Campus Rep.
Dorothy Perry, SF, BOARS
Janice Plastino, I Alt., Campus Rep.
John Poulos, D, UCM CAP Vice Chair
Anthony Pratkanis, SC, Campus Rep.
Richard Price, SF, UCPB
Michelle Yeh, D, UCAP

Meeting Participants

UCM Senior Administrators:

Chancellor Carol Tomlinson-Keasey
David Ashley, Executive Vice Chancellor
Lindsay Desrochers, Vice Chancellor-Administration
James Erickson, Vice Chancellor-Advancement
Cliff Graves, Vice Chancellor-Physical Planning
Jane Lawrence, Vice Chancellor-Student Affairs
Jeff Wright, Dean-Engineering Division
Chon Ruiz, Director of Admissions
Janet Young, Assistant Chancellor
Karen Merritt, Director-Academic Programs

Invited Contributors:

Professor Joyce Appleby, LA
Professor Steven Cassedy, SD
Professor Robert Goldman, B
Professor George Starr, B
Professor Keith Widaman, D
Professor George De Vos, B
Professor Sarah Gray, D, UCM CAP Member
Professor John Freeman, Haas School of Business
Dean Robert Smiley, UCD Business School
Bruce Dunn, Director of UCSD Extension's Business Management Programs
John Kriken, Partner-Skidmore, Owings & Merrill
Ric Notini, UCM Environmental Permitting Manager
Chris Adams, UCM Campus Planner
Jim Smith, UCM Architect