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UC Santa Cruz

Staff Advisory Board News and Updates – August 2005

### **2005-2006 Staff Advisory Board Retreat**

The UCSC Staff advisory Board held their annual retreat on August 2<sup>nd</sup>. The retreat is an opportunity to meet new members and begin to establish goals for the coming year. Members returning to the board include co-chairs Pamela Edwards and Judy Scarborough, secretary Kitty Woldow, Heather Mietz Egli, Patt Takeuchi, Ed Titus, Ciel Benedetto and Scott Loosley. New members welcomed to the board include Cyndi Edinger, Marco Garcia, Eric Grabiell and Ellen Morrison.

### **Investiture of UCSC's Chancellor**

During early November, and culminating on November 5, 2005, with the annual Scholarships Fundraising Dinner, UC Santa Cruz will celebrate the arrival of Denice D. Denton as ninth chancellor. Forgoing a formal inauguration in favor of academic symposia and raising money for student support, Chancellor Denton has said, "Instead of spending money and staff time on ceremony, we will invest in our academic priorities and our students."

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 3, and FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 4:

#### **Symposium, "Achieving Excellence Through Diversity"**

Intellectual discourse on key issues related to the importance of individual and academic diversity in an increasingly global society.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 4:

#### **Investiture of Denice D. Denton**

A brief ceremony marking the official investiture of Denice D. Denton as the ninth chancellor of UC Santa Cruz.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 5:

#### **Third Annual Scholarships Benefit Dinner**

Supporting UC Santa Cruz students. Jack Baskin, a major campus and community benefactor, will receive the first-ever Fiat Lux Award.

### **Spring "Brown Bag" Staff Open Forum**

The Staff Advisory Board hosted the spring "Brown Bag" Staff Forum with Chancellor Denice D. Denton on May 23<sup>rd</sup>. This was the second staff forum attended by Chancellor Denton and she was very responsive to inquiries presented at the March gathering. The issues of salaries, recruitment, workload and reclassification procedures will be priorities

that the Chancellor intends to address in the coming year. Other items the Chancellor intends to focus on include enhancing academic excellence and diversity, identifying new opportunities for academic programs, such as professional schools, and enhancing the national and international reputation of UCSC. She acknowledged that accomplishing these goals would require a balancing act between resources and priorities.

A question by staff concerning the strikes by represented employees this spring was addressed by Chancellor Denton. The Chancellor said she met with local labor leaders to have a better understanding of the issues, "so I can be a more effective advocate in Oakland". Chancellor Denton commented, " I'd like to be able to avoid having strikes".

Chancellor Denton also commented on the campus wide diversity initiative that is slated for implementation beginning this fall. "Diversity is central to excellence," said the Chancellor, and stated that her own definition of diversity encompasses gender, ethnicity, race, class, physical ability, gay/lesbian/bisexual/transgender, and nation of origin. The Committee on Affirmative Action and Diversity will have the task of identifying a campus definition of diversity. "What we have to do is create an environment that really does embrace difference," she said. "I'm not hearing that we've achieved that environment"

### **UCSC Excellence through Diversity Awards**

The *UCSC Excellence through Diversity Awards* honor and showcase campus members and programs that have made outstanding contributions in furthering diversity at UCSC. The Awards program is sponsored by EEO/AA, Academic HR and Staff HR. Eligible recipients include faculty and staff members, campus units and academic or administrative programs

Attendees were honored at a luncheon held at the University House on June 8, 2005. Staff members who were recipients of this year's awards include:

- Nancy Cox-Konopelski and Nandini Bhattacharya were recognized for their work with the Academic Excellence Honors Program (ACE). ACE is a mentoring program designed to increase the diversity of undergraduate students majoring in mathematics, physical and/or biological sciences. Under Nancy's direction, the ACE Program received the 1999 Presidential Award, presented by the White House and administered by the National Science Foundation.
- Richard Baldwin is the coordinator of the Anthropology Teaching Laboratories in charge of hiring student assistants and recruiting volunteers. Richard's recruitment efforts and skills training had a tremendous impact on the student diversity within UCSC's Anthropology Department. Nearly half of the 20 assistants and volunteers come from historically underrepresented groups, most are women.
- Nancy Kim, a graduate of UCSC, established the Asian American/Pacific Islander Resource Center (AA/PIRC). Under Nancy's leadership, The AA/PIRC has become the center of Asian American student life, affording a visible and positive location for students seeking support and community.
- Bernice Frankl works with Biology Professors Barry Bowman and Leo Ortiz as Program Coordinator of the Minority Access to Research Careers/Minority Biomedical Research Support Programs (MARC/MBRS Programs). Working

under the guidance and mentoring of science faculty, MARC/MBRS students carry out their own research projects, present their research at professional scientific conferences and publish their results in professional scientific journals. Barry, Leo and Bernice have been responsible for securing over 5 million dollars in extramural funding from the National Institute of Health for these programs.

#### **4th Annual Statewide Sustainability Conference**

*Building a Sustainable Campus Community* was the title of the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Statewide Sustainability Conference, hosted by UC Santa Cruz from June 19-22, 2005. The conference, sponsored in part by the Student Environmental Center, Chancellor's Sustainability Action Council, Environmental Health and Safety and the UC/CSU/IOU Energy Efficiency Partnership, brought together nearly 500 participants from the University of California and California State University systems, as well as representatives of private and community colleges. The conference was designed to provide campus planners and other staff with the concrete tools and knowledge for incorporating sustainability practices.

In California, public universities and community colleges touch the lives of more than 2,500,000 student, staff and faculty annually. These communities, therefore, offer unique possibilities for altering the approach to building construction and renovation, energy and water consumption, food services, waste reduction, curriculum development, transportation, social equality, and environmental management. The intent of the conference was to build collaborations among all the higher education campuses in the state, so they can learn from each other's experiences and share new technologies and best practices.

Along with a wide variety of "green" seminar topics, the Sustainability "Best Practices" program was initiated at the 2005 Conference. Best Practices awards are meant to both recognize campuses for their innovation and to share information and experiences on sustainable design and operations among campuses. Eleven award winners and 3 honorable mentions from UC and CSU campuses were selected in 5 separate areas of energy efficiency and sustainability.

The conference was capped off with a June 22 workshop offered by the U.S. Green Building Council, which developed the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design standards now being applied to "green" building projects around the world. The workshop, for building owners, facility managers, and design teams, covered the technical requirements and process for achieving certification under the newly released standards for existing buildings.