

The Provost's Working Group on the Role of the Academic Federation in Achieving the "Vision of Excellence"

Overview:

The Provost and Executive Vice Chancellor hereby establishes a Working Group on the Role of the Academic Federation in Achieving the "Vision of Excellence."

Rationale:

The University of California, Davis, is justifiably proud to have recognized, in chartering the Academic Federation, the rich and crucial ways in which the non-Senate academic community contributes to the University's mission. As research scientists, adjunct faculty, lecturers, librarians, program coordinators, specialists, clinicians, and in many other roles, the large and varied group of Federation employees are key to our efforts to achieve excellence in every aspect of research, teaching, and service. Federation members are truly important to the classroom, the research laboratory, and the extension of knowledge created here in public service to our state, the nation, and the world.

As such, Federation employees are essential to our efforts to attain the goals articulated in *UC Davis: A Vision of Excellence*. We expect much of Federation members, who are respected partners in dialogue, as we work together to advance the goals of the campus. It is thus important to consider whether our campus policies, processes, and practices are aligned with the roles we expect the Federation to play in our efforts to enhance excellence.

Charge:

The charge of the working group is to reaffirm the Federation's role with renewed clarity and vigor vis-à-vis the campuswide goals stated in *A Vision of Excellence*.

More specifically, the Working Group will seek to answer the following questions:

1. What are the roles of Federation employees in achieving our "Vision of Excellence"? How are these roles changing today? How can they be expected to change in the future?
2. What concerted efforts by the campus are necessary to ensure that Federation members are enabled to fully contribute to the "Vision of Excellence"?

3. Which campus policies, procedures, and practices facilitate the contributions of Federation employees?
4. Which campus policies, procedures, and practices are obstacles—or may become obstacles in time?

Activities and methodologies:

The Working Group produces a white paper

- The group will submit its observations and recommendations in a white paper to the Provost and Executive Vice Chancellor and the Chancellor

The white paper is circulated widely

- Upon the Chancellor's approval, the group's white paper will be circulated to the Senate, the Federation, deans, and department chairs

Timeline:

June 2011: Establishment of Working Group

January 2012: Submission of white paper to Provost and Chancellor

Winter quarter 2012: Wider circulation of white paper

Membership:

The following individuals were selected to serve on the Task Force by the Provost and the Chair of the Senate after receiving recommendations from the Senate's Committee on Committees:

Barbara Aguirre, *Director, Academic Employment and Labor Relations Executive*

Gina Anderson, *Director, Academic Senate, Davis Division*

Kent Erickson, *Professor, Department of Cell Biology and Human Anatomy*

Susan Kaiser, *Professor, Department of Textiles and Clothing, and Department of Women and Gender Studies*

Jim MacDonald, *Executive Associate Dean, College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences*

Carina Celesia Moore, *Director, Staff Development and Professional Services*

Bruno Nachtergaele, *Professor, Department of Mathematics*

Jessie Ann Owens, *Dean, Division of Humanities, Arts and Cultural Studies*
(chair)

Binnie Singh, *Director, Academic Affairs*

John Stenzel, *Lecturer, University Writing Program*

Yajarayma Tang-Feldman, Specialist, *UCDHS Division of Infectious Diseases*
Catherine VandeVoort, *Professor in Residence, California National Primate
Research Center*

The Working Group comprises both Senate and Federation members, as well as representatives of the Vice Provost—Academic Affairs and the Associate Vice Chancellor—Human Resources, whose participation will bring to the table in-depth understanding of the academic personnel processes that apply to Federation employees, and ensure that the group does not stray into matters that should be addressed in collective bargaining.

Contact:

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