

## Request for expressions of interest to serve on a Joint Academic Senate/Provost Task Force on the Academic Organization of UC Davis (5.16.13)

Sent on behalf of Davis Division of the Academic Senate Chair Bruno Nachtergaele and Provost and Executive Vice Chancellor Ralph Hexter

Dear Campus Community:

We write to request expressions of interest to serve on a joint Academic Senate/Provost Task Force on the Academic Organization of UC Davis. The impetus for this task force is the recent recommendation by faculty within the Division of Mathematical and Physical Sciences (MPS) to establish the Division as a College, separate and apart from the existing College of Letters and Science (L&S). This recommendation raises a number of interesting and important questions and we are seeking representatives from across the campus to consider these questions and provide advice and recommendations.

Understanding full well that any formal proposal to evolve one or more divisions of L&S into self-standing colleges will require formal process by and within the Academic Senate, the charge of the Task Force is to think broadly about the question and reflect on it above the level of a single division or college. The highest-level questions derive from the attached white paper and include:

- What is the right balance of central versus locally controlled administrative services that will wisely and prudently leverage campus investment while ensuring that end user needs are appropriately met?
- What organizational realignments might improve the university and be responsive to the needs of our students?
- Are faculty best served by current organizational structures? If not, what structures might be better?

The task force will be broadly representative of the campus, but no larger than about 20 to enable representation while still maintaining a workable group dynamic. Vice Provost for Undergraduate Education Carolyn de la Pena and Davis Division Academic Senate Vice Chair Andre Knoesen will co-chair the task force and the Provost's Office will partner with the Academic Senate Office to provide staff support. Additional staff expertise will be available to the task force as needed. An initial meeting of the task force is anticipated before summer break and a report is expected by December 13, 2013.

Please forward expressions of interest to serve on this task force to Karl Mohr, Assistant Executive Vice Chancellor via email ([kfmohr@ucdavis.edu](mailto:kfmohr@ucdavis.edu)) no later than Friday, May 24, 2013.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Ralph J. Hexter  
Provost and Executive Vice Chancellor

Bruno Nachtergaele  
Chair, Davis Division of the Academic Senate