PHYSICAL AND BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES COMMUNITY

Re: Year-end Message

Dear Colleagues:

As we say goodbye to the 2011 graduates, I want to extend my heartfelt thanks to everyone for your continuing contributions to the success of UCSC and the Physical and Biological Sciences Division and for your commitment to our students.

On July 1, I will begin my term as president of Willamette University in my hometown of Salem, Oregon. It is exciting to take on this different role at a university that shares UCSC’s strong focus on excellence in undergraduate education, but it is also hard to leave a place that my family and I have come to love. Fortunately, I am leaving the leadership of the division to an outstanding successor, Paul Koch, who has agreed to serve as interim dean for a year. An internationally recognized paleontologist, ecologist, and geochemist, Paul joined the UCSC faculty in 1996. He has been chair of Earth & Planetary Sciences since 2006 and associate dean for the past two years. I appreciate the well wishes I have received and look forward to staying in touch with UCSC.

There are a number of transitions in the division this summer, many of which are highlighted below. As a system, UC continues to face daunting fiscal challenges. These challenges are being felt everywhere at UCSC as we begin implementing a fourth year of budget reductions. I noted last year that the divisional budget is smaller than it was 10 years ago in constant dollars with half the staffing per student of a decade ago—a situation worsening with this year’s cut. Still, our research activity continues to flourish, and we are finding creative ways to ensure our students make timely progress toward their degrees. These achievements are a tribute to the expertise and efforts all of you bring to our enterprise.

I hope this summer presents opportunities for fun, relaxation, and renewal. For now, I’ll say farewell and offer you my best wishes for the coming year.

Sincerely,

Steve Thorsett
Dean
1. 2010–11 FACULTY RECRUITMENTS, PROMOTIONS, AND RETIREMENTS

I want to take this opportunity to introduce you to our newest faculty, congratulate those members of our faculty who were promoted this past year, and acknowledge those individuals who retired during 2010–11.

Recruitments:

Despite budget constraints, we were very successful in our recruitment efforts last year, attracting four outstanding new faculty members to our division, and we have ongoing negotiations with a Target of Opportunity candidate. I believe our success in recruiting colleagues of the highest caliber is due to the strength of our academic departments, the innovative research underway, and the opportunity to interact with exceptional undergraduate and graduate students. Please join me in extending a warm welcome to our newest colleagues:

- Astronomy & Astrophysics – Assistant Professor **Charles Conroy** (starts fall 2012)
- Chemistry & Biochemistry – Assistant Professor **Carrie Partch**
- Ecology & Evolutionary Biology – Assistant Professor **Eric Palkovacs** (starts fall 2012)
- Physics – Assistant Professor **Tesla Jeltema**

Promotions:

Please join me in congratulating the following faculty upon their promotion to Associate Professor (with tenure):

- Astronomy & Astrophysics – **Jonathan Fortney**
- Physics – **Stefano Profumo**

The following faculty were promoted to full Professor:

- UCO/Lick (Astronomer/Professor) – **Rebecca Bernstein**
- Earth & Planetary Sciences – **Emily Brodsky**
- Earth & Planetary Sciences – **Francis Nimmo**
- Microbiology & Environmental Toxicology – **Fitnat Yildiz**

Retirements:

We extend our best wishes to **Roger Anderson** (Chemistry & Biochemistry) who is retiring at the end of June. He has been a valued colleague, and we look forward to his continuing involvement as an active emeritus member of the division for many more years.

2. NOTABLE HONORS, AWARDS AND GRANTS

The following is a small sample of the accomplishments of our faculty.

- **Sandra Faber**, Astronomy & Astrophysics, was awarded the 2011 Henry Norris Russell Lectureship from the American Astronomical Society.
- **Mark Krumholz**, Astronomy & Astrophysics, won a prestigious Faculty Early Career Development (CAREER) Wards from the National Science Foundation.
- **Enrico Ramirez–Ruiz**, Astronomy & Astrophysics, was elected a corresponding member of the Mexican Academy of Sciences—the youngest scientist ever elected to the academy.
• **Rob Coe**, Earth & Planetary Sciences, received the 2009–10 Outstanding Faculty Award for the Physical and Biological Sciences Division.

• **Jim Gill**, Earth & Planetary Sciences, received a Humboldt Research Award from the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation in recognition of lifetime achievements in research.

• **Gary Griggs**, Earth & Planetary Sciences, was elected to the California Academy of Sciences for notable contributions to one or more of the natural sciences.

• **Bruce Lyon**, Ecology & Evolutionary Biology, was elected to the California Academy of Sciences for notable contributions to one or more of the natural sciences.

• **Grant Pogson**, Ecology & Evolutionary Biology, was elected to the California Academy of Sciences for notable contributions to one or more of the natural sciences.

• **Amy Ralston**, Molecular, Cell & Developmental Biology, was selected as New Scholar in Aging by the Ellison Medical Foundation.

• **Tom Banks**, Physics, and **Jim Zachos**, Earth & Planetary Sciences, were elected to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences for 2011.

**Extramural Income:**

To date in 2010–11, the division received $57M in total awards and just over $11M in indirect costs, including UCO/Lick. This is down from the previous year’s $68.8M, but these are early numbers and not all extramural awards have been recorded for the year. A drop was anticipated after federal stimulus funding peaked last year; early numbers from the campus suggest that non-stimulus funding is likely up slightly.

We will receive final figures for the year in the fall when the Vice Chancellor for Research publishes the 10–11 annual report on extramural funds.

**Gifts:**

Over the past year, the development office focused on identifying, cultivating and soliciting donors in support of the division’s people and programs. One–on–one meetings, events, and tours engaged prospects and donors and resulted in significant funds raised in support of our academic priorities.

Notable successes this past year include capital funds for the Center for Ocean Health expansion, graduate fellowship support for astronomy, plant ecology, marine mammal and cancer research, funds for the Chemical Screening Center, a new undergraduate internship program in the Natural Reserves, a half–million dollar infusion of funds to the Seymour Center Endowment, and a new fund for lecturers in the Science Communication Program.

Faculty, program directors, and our excellent students continue to be our partners in direct outreach to donor prospects. This next year we will continue to focus our efforts around important campus–wide and divisional campaign priorities.
3. DIVISIONAL CHANGES

Department Chairs and ORU/MRU Directors:

Many of our departments will have new leadership effective July 1.

- **Greg Laughlin** will succeed **Sandra Faber** as chair of Astronomy & Astrophysics. Sandy has chaired the department for the past 6 years.

- **Ilan Benjamin** has agreed to serve as chair of Chemistry and Biochemistry. Ólöf Einarsdóttir led the department for the past 5 years.

- **Quentin Williams** will take over as chair of Earth & Planetary Sciences, succeeding **Paul Koch** who served as chair for 5 years.

- **Robert Boltje** will succeed **Chongying Dong** as chair of Math, following Chongying Dong’s 3-year service as chair.

- **Michael Dine** will chair the Physics Department as **Dave Belanger** steps down following 6 years of service as chair.

I am grateful to Sandy, Ólöf, Paul, Chongying, and Dave for multi-year service to their departments and to the division. They were excellent colleagues and collaborators during challenging times.

And a special thank you as well to **Christina Ravelo** who served as the Director of IGPP for the past 6 years. IGPP is one of a number of systemwide Multi-campus Research Units (MRUs) that have been defunded by the Office of the President.

Department Managers:

**Claudia McClure**, manager of Microbiology and Environmental Toxicology, has taken a new position at Stanford University. **Lauren Eby** has joined us on a temporary basis until a permanent recruitment is conducted.

4. CAL TEACH

The Cal Teach program is helping increase the population of UCSC undergraduate STEM majors who pursue K–12 science and math teaching careers upon graduation. Cal Teach internships and their associated coursework are integrated into the B.A. in Biology with a science education concentration, the B.S. in Earth Sciences with a science education concentration, the B.S. in Physics Education, and the STEM Education minor.

As Cal Teach completes its fifth year, the impact of the program on schools in the region is increasingly felt. In 2010–11, Cal Teach placed undergraduates in 110 internships in local schools. Simultaneously, 10 Cal Teach graduates were student teaching in area schools as part of their work in UCSC’s MA/teaching credential program; all these student teachers were supported by NSF Noyce Scholarships or Mark Bruce Fellowships—scholarship funding of over $137,000 for 2010–11 secured and managed by the Cal Teach program. In addition, over 10 Cal Teach graduates were employed as credentialled, highly qualified classroom math and science teachers in the tri-county area, with many more teaching around the state. In partnership with the Education Department, regional teachers and school districts, private donors, and the NSF, Cal Teach and the division will continue to support undergraduate prospective teachers, student teachers, and its graduates and host teachers in the coming years.
5. BUDGET UPDATE

The division again made significant permanent budget reductions on state funds for the fourth consecutive year, reducing state resources by $1.7M effective 7/1/11. These reductions included 12 faculty FTE, additional TAships (45), and elimination or reductions in time affecting 5 academic research support positions and 4 staff positions.

The division’s cumulative permanent reduction in core funds for 2008–09, 2009–10, 2010–11 and 2011–12 is roughly $4.7M, or 15% of our 08–09 base budget. This includes 24 ladder faculty FTE, 104 TAships, and nearly 30 staff positions in addition to various reductions to research and instructional support units over this period.

As you know, there have been consequences in all areas of the campus, with some areas assigned much greater cuts than we have experienced. I’m sure that all of you have felt the unavoidable decrease in divisional and departmental support and assistance and impacts of cuts in the academic support units.

The central administration has provided one-time “bridge funds” to support the curriculum in 2010–11 and 2011–12 as we develop a long-term strategy to maintain instructional access with a smaller permanent funding base. Our department chairs, department managers, and advising staff have worked cooperatively to identify the areas of greatest need to meet our instructional responsibilities. I appreciate the effort of all of our instructors and instructional support staff to meet the needs of our students who are paying more than ever for a quality UC education.

6. CAPITAL PLANNING AND SPACE RENOVATION

The Biomedical Sciences Building is nearing completion and we anticipate construction will be finished by early spring 2012. The steps and pathways have been poured and additional trees and plants are soon to be planted to complete the landscaping around the building. In addition, the sidewalk on McLaughlin alongside the north side of the building will be done by the end of August, just in time for the new academic year. As always, we appreciate your patience with the noise and inconvenience of construction.

Planning and development of the Coastal Biology Area Plan at the Long Marine Laboratory site continues. We were not awarded our proposal to the State of California Department of Parks and Recreation to improve Seymour Marine Discovery Center exhibits and to provide trails, outlooks, and outdoor exhibits. Because the state legislature did not approve any new construction this year, the Coastal Biology Building was again deferred. We feel this will have a very good chance of moving forward next year.

On June 27, Mathematics will begin their move into newly remodeled space in the McHenry Library. This will provide a considerable amount of release space for the division in the Baskin Engineering Building. However, cuts to the physical plant make it unclear exactly when we will be able to complete the room preparations to enable moves into the space.

UCSC has not received any State funding for capital projects for four years, creating a bottleneck of critical capital improvement projects. Chancellor Blumenthal continues to advocate on behalf of the campus for new construction, renovation, and infrastructure upgrades.