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ANR's program leaders are reappointed

Associate Vice President **Henry Vaux Jr.** has announced that the Division has reappointed its four program leaders.

Joseph Morse, agricultural policy and pest management program leader, and **Karen Varcoe**, human resources program leader, will serve three more years.

Bill Frost, natural resources program leader, and **Michael Reid**, agricultural

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ANR Report to eliminate hard-copy distribution

ANR Report will soon become an online-only publication, saving nearly \$16,000 annually in printing costs. As soon as the key technical requirements are met, the newsletter will take advantage of the delivery options offered by the Internet and email to eliminate the hard-copy edition. The move will free up staff time and also save postage.

Gomes outlines what ANR is doing to absorb cut in state funding for research

Excerpted below is a letter Vice President Gomes sent to ANR unit heads on Sept. 11. (The full text is posted at ucanr.org.) Gomes' comments refer to ANR programs managed through the Oakland office.

Dear Colleagues:

With the signing of the state budget, certain elements of the Division's budget have been clarified. ... As you know, state-funded University research has been reduced by 10 percent. This reduction applies to the AES budget as a whole, including the funds under the authority of the Office of the Vice President.

Associate Vice President **Vaux** and I have determined that rather than applying a 10 percent across-the-board cut to all AES units, the budgets of units responsible for conducting research or providing research-related services and facilities should be preserved to the fullest extent possible. Thus, we are limiting the reduction for these units to 4 percent and taking a disproportionate share of the reduction from Oakland-based statewide administration and liquidating all reserves held by my office.

... It is likely that further cuts will be needed in years to come. State agencies have been asked to plan for a 20 percent reduction in funding. ...

The University budget and that of ANR will no doubt sustain further reductions, for both mid-year and fiscal 2003-04. The extent of these reductions is unpredictable at this time. ... I want to emphasize that we have now exhausted all reserves and contingency funds and that further cuts will have to be fully absorbed by the operating units of the Division. Prudence dictates that we maintain flexibility to accommodate as broad a range of scenarios as we can. I am, therefore, imposing a freeze on all new hiring, both staff and academic. ... All ANR positions supported with state general funds originating from the Office of the Vice President are frozen. This includes permanent academic and non-academic positions as well as temporary positions. I will consider granting exceptions ... Future budget cuts may be exacted mid-year. ... Thus I strongly encourage all units to preserve salary savings in order to be prepared to cover retroactive cuts.

W. R. Gomes



Budget overview

As state trims funding, Division managers try to protect quality, scope of research programs

ANR units are moving quickly to implement their plans for dealing with a 10 percent, permanent reduction in state financial support for University research. The state's 2002-03 spending plan, which Gov. **Davis** signed on Sept. 5, cuts the allocation for organized research at UC by \$32 million. The across-the-board cut was

among several targeted reductions specified for the University. Overall, the state is providing \$3.2 billion for UC's operating budget in 2002-03—about 3 percent less than last year. (To learn more about UC's budget, visit <http://www.ucop.edu/news/budget>.)

The cut in organized research affects

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Budget overview (from p. 1)

19900 funds. These funds support research programs throughout the University, including those conducted by the Agricultural Experiment Station at UC Berkeley, UC Davis and UC Riverside and at the UCD School of Veterinary Medicine. Also included are AES funds managed through the Division's Office of the Vice President.

As the reports below indicate, the Division's senior administrators expect the impact of this budget reduction to be substantial and long-lasting.

Because of a severe shortfall in state revenues, the governor may cut the state budget again later in the year. As Vice President *Gomes* notes in his Sept. 11 budget message (see page 1), if that happens, UC's budget may be affected as well. Many experts say that California can expect to face shortfalls again next year and perhaps beyond. In light of these uncertainties, President *Atkinson* has advised UC managers to be cautious in their spending.

Office of the Vice President, ANR

The 10 percent reduction in 19900 funds affects units in the offices of the vice president and associate vice president in Oakland, several ANR statewide special programs, the Division's research and extension centers and the Natural Reserve System.

"Cooperative Extension, at least to date, has not been hit," *Gomes* notes.

In planning for the anticipated cut and guided by principles they had previously identified, *Gomes* and Associate Vice President *Henry Vaux Jr.* "decided to buffer, insofar as possible, the research programs of the Division and the units which directly support them by taking more than a 10 percent cut in the Oakland-based administrative units," *Vaux* says.

In the plan approved by *Gomes*, administrative units that support AES activities (other than the offices of the vice president and associate vice president) will take only a 5 percent cut this year, and programmatic units, only a 4 percent cut. ANR has also enacted a hiring freeze.

"Reserves that we had set aside ahead of time for the purpose of managing this possibility also helped us to protect AES programs from the full brunt of the cut," *Vaux* explains.

This cut is "relatively harsher" for the Division than it might seem at first blush, *Vaux* notes, because "we have never recovered financially from the severe budget cuts of the early 1990s."

And *Vaux* doesn't expect the fiscal situation to improve soon. "The bottom line is we anticipate that there are going to be even larger cuts next year—and the reserves that helped buffer the impact of this year's cuts are gone," he says.

UCB College of Natural Resources

"Our goal is to ensure that we protect the future of CNR and maintain excellence in research, teaching and outreach," says Executive Associate Dean *Barbara Allen-Diaz*. CNR is cutting \$1.5 million by relinquishing research support, administrative staff and academic positions. In addition to

eliminating positions that are currently vacant (the salary savings supported research programs), the college will relinquish 12.41 organized research (OR) FTE.

College administrators expect the programmatic impact of these cuts to be wide-ranging. *Allen-Diaz* says, for example, that fewer research dollars will make it more difficult to attract and retain faculty. CNR's core research facilities, she explains, "have been an important deciding factor for new faculty whose research program requires the type of facilities we provide to our principal investigators."

CNR will have to reduce support allocated to those facilities, affecting agricultural field and greenhouse research, the insectary and quarantine services facility, genomics and bioinformatics research services, spectroscopy and analytical services, biological imaging services and forestry field research. Since CE specialists also use these facilities, she adds that the cuts will also "diminish our capacity to extend research along the AES-CE continuum."

This budget cut will sting even more because the budget cuts of the early 1990s were absorbed disproportionately by the administrative support provided to faculty. Since then, *Allen-Diaz* says, CNR and the campus administration have worked together to make do with the reduced level of support. But "the 2003 OR cuts will seriously undercut our efforts to improve the level of administrative support provided to our faculty," she says. Less staff limits faculty productivity. There will also be less staff available to develop extramural funding and to support faculty research and teaching initiatives. It will be harder to obtain extramural funding sources to the extent that state funds are necessary to meet institutional matching requirements, she says.

UCD College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences

The college will reduce spending by about \$3.8 million, according to Executive Associate Dean *Jim MacDonald*.

"Our goal is to assure that our college comes out of this budget crisis with the strong programs and academic excellence that have been the hallmarks of UC Davis for many decades," he says.

During the budget cuts of the early 1990s, most AES-supported technical staff in the college were laid off or their salaries shifted to grant dollars—and departmental administrative staffs were cut back to bare minimums. That leaves few options for absorbing this cut. The college plans to take it largely by eliminating faculty positions through attrition as individuals retire, a process expected to take about four years.

"We estimate that the permanent reduction will require closing out 25 to 30 AES FTE and cutting back on support provided to department research facilities," *MacDonald* says. As faculty retire, the AES FTE portion of each appointment will be lost, but the instruction and research (I&R) FTE will be retained. This will allow a low level of recruiting using non-AES FTE, *MacDonald* says.

"Investments of new positions, using our limited I&R

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Budget overview *(from p. 2)*

sources, will target the highest priority programs,” he says. The net result of this strategy is that budget decisions will be programmatic rather than across-the-board.

“Because our college lost over 20 AES FTE in the 1990s, and will lose at least that many again, some of our departments will be severely stressed by programmatic gaps that we might only be able to address through organizational change,” MacDonald says.

In the meantime, he says, most recruitments have been halted. These savings, along with other carry-forward funds intended for facility renovations, will provide one-time funds for this year’s budget reduction.

UCD School of Veterinary Medicine

The Vet Med School has been forced to cut by 50 percent its research on critical animal diseases, says Dean *Bennie Osburn*. These diseases can often affect humans and have major impacts on the state’s economy.

In addition, Osburn says, “this loss of faculty effort, including a reduction in faculty FTE and the freeze on all approved faculty positions, directly impacts our ability to leverage external funding, accomplish research productivity and provide graduate student education.” For example, each AES dollar used to help develop preliminary research data captures about \$5 in new extramural funding.

The cut could also imperil the school’s ability to respond to a long string of urgent national needs in areas such as bio-defense, safe-food systems from environment to consumption, waste management, agricultural productivity, emerging diseases and public health.

Programs to combat invasive and emerging diseases in California are also being hurt, Osburn says. The UC Center for Vector-Borne Diseases, for example, recently provided the confirmations necessary to diagnose a California woman with West Nile encephalitis. The center, Osburn says, has been impacted by the cuts and is struggling to maintain critical functions.

Also impacted, he says, is UC’s ability to qualify for a \$190 million, high-containment facility and to serve as a key participant in the Regional Center of Excellence proposal that could bring between \$5 million to \$7 million per year over the next five years from the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases.

The funding cut also affects the school’s ability to develop research approaches in food safety and security in a new collaborative initiative—the Western Institute for Food Safety and Security. The institute aims to revolutionize approaches for assuring safe food and food security and improving global trade.

UCR College of Natural and Agricultural Sciences

The CNAS Dean’s office is reducing staff and expenses for a resulting budget reduction of about 15 percent, says Executive Associate Dean *Don Cooksey*. Academic departments are taking a 10.5 percent budget reduction. Cooksey

explains that the reductions above 10 percent will compensate for certain areas where cuts were not possible, such as the statistics department, where AES funds are almost entirely supporting faculty salaries.

Most academic departments are reducing the time of state-funded staff research associates by an average of about 20 percent. Four to seven open faculty positions will be given up.

“The UCR Agricultural Operations staff is also being reduced, which will reduce support for agricultural research at our campus field station, as well as the Moreno Valley and Coachella Valley field stations,” Cooksey says.

ANR welcomes

Four new Cooperative Extension specialists have joined the UCR College of Natural and Agricultural Sciences.



Alan McHughen, associate CE plant biotechnology specialist and associate geneticist, joined the botany and plant sciences department in January. He comes from the University of Saskatchewan, where he was a plant sciences professor and served with the Crop Development Centre for 20 years.



Marshall W. Johnson, associate CE specialist in integrated pest management of perennial crops and associate entomologist, is based at Kearney Ag Center. He was a faculty member at the University of Hawaii at Manoa, in Honolulu, for 21 years and served as entomology department chair from 1996-1998.



W. Bowman Cutter, assistant professor of environmental economics and assistant CE water resources management specialist, received a PhD in environmental economics from UCLA, where he also served as a teaching and research associate with the departments of policy studies and economics.



Stephen N. Wegulo, assistant CE ornamental crops specialist, earned a PhD from Iowa State University in 1997 and worked there as an assistant scientist and research associate in the plant pathology department. Recent research involves developing IPM strategies to control fungal and bacterial diseases in crops such as strawberries and cantaloupe.

Program leaders

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productivity program leader have been reappointed to two-year terms.

"The program leaders have been important players in the Division during the past three years," Vaux said. "They have brought a statewide perspective to their respective program areas and have moved us towards more coordinated, focused and relevant programs."

In addition to fostering statewide integration of programs, program leaders are mentors and advocates for workgroups in their program areas, represent the Division to external stakeholder groups on issues related to their program area, and participate in the Program Council, where recommendations for the allocation of Division resources are developed.

Research notes

UCR researcher wins \$4.3 million grant to study mosquitoes The National Institutes of Health (NIH) has awarded a 10-year, \$4.3 million grant to UC Riverside entomology professor *Alexander S. Raikhel* to support continuing investigation into the genetic and molecular mechanisms regulating egg development and maturation in mosquitoes.

The research has implications on preventing mosquitoes' transmission of deadly diseases, including West Nile virus and dengue fever.

The grant is one of several Raikhel and his laboratory team have received from federal agencies to support their research on the mosquito species *Aedes aegypti*. For more information, visit <http://www.info.ucr.edu>.

ANR bookmarks promote our website

Division members will now find it easier to access the online form for ordering the popular ANR bookmarks. Go to ANR's website (ucanr.org), click on "internal resources" and scroll down to the Events and Announcements link to the form. The bookmarks—created to promote the ANR website as the gateway to UC Cooperative Extension, campus resources, statewide special programs, workgroups, the NRS, and ANR products and publications—are available in seven different images and two Spanish-language versions. And they are still free of charge.

Shafter, West Side RECs seek research proposals

■ Shafter Research and Extension Center, a cotton research facility in southern San Joaquin Valley, is soliciting proposals for new and continuing research projects in 2003.

Proposals are due Dec. 2.

For more information, contact **Brian Marsh** (661/868-6210).

Forms can be downloaded from the RECs' web page (danrrec.ucdavis.edu).

■ Proposals for conducting research at West Side REC in calendar year 2003 are due Friday, Nov. 1.

For more information, contact **Jimmie Ross** (559/884-2412; jiross@ucdavis.edu).

Forms can be downloaded from the RECs' web page (danrrec.ucdavis.edu).

Recruitment under way for Central Coast and South regional director


This is an internal recruitment limited to current ANR academic appointees.

Regional Director, Central Coast and South Region

Closing date: Oct. 14

#AP-02-02

Nominations and applications accompanied by a current curriculum vitae may be sent to Coordinator **Elizabeth Gomez**, ANR, 1111 Franklin Street, 6th Floor, Oakland, CA 94607-5200. Applications may also be sent by fax 510/587-6416 or email (andra.strads@ucop.edu). Full position description may be obtained from **Andra Strads** (510/987-0054) or ANR's website.

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COMING UP

NOVEMBER

Cooperatives & Communities Conf.

Nov. 1-2; Oakland; 530/752-2408

<http://cooperatives.ucdavis.edu>

California Small Farm Conference

Nov. 17-19; Ventura; Small Farm

Center (530/752-8136)

DECEMBER

Winter Tree Fruit Meeting

Dec. 4; Dinuba; Kevin Day

(559/685-3303)

Western Alfalfa and Forage Conf.

Dec. 11-13; Reno; Nikki Picanco

(530/752-0700)

Sudden Oak Death Science Symposium

Dec. 16-18; Monterey; Joni Rippee

(510/642-0095; ripee@nature.berkeley.edu)

JANUARY

SJV Grape Symposium

Jan. 9; Easton; S. Vasquez (559/456-

7567), W. Peacock (559/685-3303)

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

FEBRUARY

ANR Statewide Academic Staff Conference

Feb. 18: Pre-conference meetings

Feb. 19-21: Conference

Location: Sacramento; Joni

Rippee (510/642-0095;

ripee@nature.berkeley.edu)

ANR REPORT

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