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Dooley appoints group to review Administrative Services

VP Dooley has appointed a working group of Oakland-based employees to review ANR's Administrative Services.

Their charge is to review administrative service functions based in Oakland and make recommendations regarding alignment of administrative functions and organizational structure that will optimize operational efficiencies. The review will cover all business services — including accounting, financial, risk, policy, and environmental health and safety services — budget, payroll, affirmative action, human resources, controller, and contract and grants.

The working group will develop descriptions of the various functions and their relationships to one another. They will also propose an organizational structure that aligns functions in a manner that optimizes functions and efficiencies.

"The purpose of this review is not to reduce the workforce, but to see where we can improve the way we work together to serve the Division," explained Dooley.

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PAC discusses ag price boom

The President's Advisory Commission welcomed new members and bid farewell to retiring President Dynes at its meeting April 3 and 4 in Berkeley.

In his first PAC meeting as vice president, former PAC chair Dan Dooley greeted the PAC and new members cattle rancher Steve Sinton, agricultural marketing consultant Rodger Wasson, and wine maker Matt Gallo (see sidebar page 2).

Dynes thanked commissioners Kevin Andrew, John Powell and Rodney Taylor for hosting the Coachella Valley agricultural tour in January. He noted that his wife, Ann, had joined him on the Coachella Valley tour. Dynes told the group, "After the tour, Ann said, 'Now I know why you go on these tours, they're really fun.'"

In wrapping up his final PAC meeting, Dynes said of his upcoming retirement, "There are many things I won't miss, but this is one group I will miss. I have fond memories."

Calling R, D & D the road to the future, he urged the commissioners to advocate for UC. "The well-being of our society depends enormously on those investments that will take decades to return," Dynes said, "Your advocacy is going to be needed. It took a huge investment to build this infrastructure, which is decaying, and this

research environment, which is the best in the world. You and I realize that you have to invest in the future, but politicians won't unless we force them to."

Dynes provided the PAC with some background about Mark Yudof, chancellor of the University of Texas system, who has been named to succeed him at UC. Noting that he has known his successor for over a decade, since the days Yudof was president of the land-grant University of Minnesota, Dynes said, "Mark is perhaps the most eminently qualified person to take over the University of California system." While he could not speak for Yudof, Dynes said he is "optimistic Mark will recognize the land-grant mission of UC and support and nurture it in his own style."

The price boom in agriculture

The major presentation for the meeting was "What's Behind the Price Boom in Agriculture: What Does it Mean for California?" Stuart Woolf, PAC chair and CEO of Woolf Farming Company in Huron, kicked off the discussion with UC economists by observing that demand for California almonds and tomatoes is outpacing supply this year. "Prices are going up, but so are our costs," he said, asking the economists what is fueling the growth.

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President Dynes poses with past and present PAC members, CAES Dean Van Alfen and CNAS Interim Dean Cooksey.

Gallo, Sinton and Wasson appointed to PAC

Three new members have joined the President's Advisory Commission: Matt Gallo, Steve Sinton and Rodger Wasson.

Gallo is vice president of operations for E&J Gallo Winery, overseeing their family-owned vineyards, grower suppliers and winery operations for the Premium Wine Division. A third-generation winegrower, he serves on the board of directors of the Wine Institute, the Cal Poly College of Agriculture, Food & Environmental Sciences Advisory Council, and the Sonoma County Vintners Foundation. Gallo received his bachelor of arts degree in Political Science from UCLA.

Sinton is a partner in his family's Avnales Cattle Co., Shell Creek Vineyards and various commercial buildings in San Luis Obispo County. He also serves on the board of directors of Lovejoy, Inc., a Chicago-based manufacturing company. He practiced water rights and

environmental law for 20 years. He was the founding chairman and remains a director of the California Rangeland Trust. In 2005 American Farmland Trust selected him as its national Steward of the Land. Sinton graduated from Stanford and earned a law degree from the University of Colorado.

Wasson is owner and president of Wasson & Associates, a Northern California-based firm established in 2005 to offer production and marketing consultancy to agricultural and food industries. His company manages the Tomato Products Wellness Council on behalf of growers, processors and brand companies. Prior to starting his own firm, Wasson served as president of the California Strawberry Commission, president and CEO of the Almond Board of California, and executive director of the American Sheep Industry Association in Colorado. He earned a bachelor's degree in Communications from Illinois State University.



From left, Matt Gallo, Rodger Wasson and Steve Sinton

Program leader videos posted

The committee appointed to search for the next ANR Agricultural Productivity Program Leader interviewed candidates on April 7 and 9. The candidates included Dan Putnam (UCD), Mary Bianchi (UCCE San Luis Obispo County), and Maxwell Norton (UCCE Merced County).

Each candidate was asked to prepare remarks concerning their interest in the position, their qualifications, and the challenges/opportunities they see facing California agriculture and natural

resources. Videos made of this portion of each interview are available for review. Each video is about 20 minutes long and is posted on the ANR Communication Services Web site: http://anrcs.ucdavis.edu/Media%5FServices/Ag_Productivity_Program_Leader_Appllicants.htm

After viewing the videos, you can offer comments about the candidates to Steve Welter, search committee chair, at welters@nature.berkeley.edu by April 22.

Taber named AVP for Administrative Services

The UC regents appointed Kay Harrison Taber assistant vice president – Administrative Services on March 19. The appointment became effective April 1.



Taber had been serving as interim AVP – Administrative Services since August, when her predecessor Christine Casey became vice president for Business and Finance for Southern Methodist University.

Taber's duties include oversight of the budget, fiscal management, human resources, communication services, development services, and contracts and grants functions in support of ANR's 1,000 academics housed at the Berkeley, Davis and Riverside campuses, nine research and extension centers, and 52 county Cooperative Extension offices spread throughout the state.

"Among the many recent examples of her outstanding work," VP Dooley said, "are improving service of administration, planning administrative workload and function, revitalizing databases for ANR's development activities, and linking county and campus administrative procedures.

"I am very pleased by this recognition of Kay's strong and positive leadership, organizational skills, knowledge of University and USDA policies, and familiarity with the Division's diverse stakeholders. She is absolutely dedicated to continuing to provide the resources and accountability to ensure continued excellence of the research and extension programs delivered by ANR."

Taber joined ANR in 1988 after 10 years at The University of Arizona in research administration. At UC she previously served as assistant director of the UC Center for Pest Management Research and Extension and as deputy to the vice president-ANR. She earned her bachelor's degree in Management from Saint Mary's College of California.

Employment opportunity

Research and Extension Center System: Associate Director (Internal recruitment for academic employees)

Office of the Assistant Vice President – Programs invites applications for the Research and Extension Center Associate Director position located on Davis campus.

The REC associate director will work with each center director and research advisory committees to ensure that academic programs and center directions are implemented. The associate director will actively assist in the development of a new REC system strategic plan. The associate director must advocate for center needs and be able to analyze and interpret UC and Division policies and procedures to effectively meet center needs.

The nine-REC system consists of approximately 400,000 square feet of buildings on approximately 12,000 acres of land and includes roads, agricultural operations, animal facilities, and associ-

ated equipment to support the research and extension infrastructure. The total physical asset value is approximately \$12 million.

Appointment as associate director will be an 80 to 100 percent appointment (0 to 20 percent programmatic appointment to be negotiated) for a term of five years with the possibility of renewal.

A master's degree or Ph.D. is required in agriculture, natural resources or related human resources programs. A minimum of five years experience is required in managing multidisciplinary academic programs, including resource allocation, and the ability to analyze and interpret UC and Division policies and procedures. Experience in ANR Cooperative Extension or similar UC structure is desirable. Candidates must possess organizational and management skills and abilities to facilitate and conduct group process and supervise academics and staff.

The position is in the Academic Administrator series. (The appointee may maintain a percentage of his/her current ANR academic appointment if applicable.) Salary will be in the UC Academic Administrator series, dependent upon applicable experience and professional qualifications.

The complete position vacancy announcement and application instructions for #AREC 08-01, can be viewed at <http://ucanr.org/jobdescription/RECAssocDir.pdf>.

The position will be **open until filled**. Evaluation of application packets will begin on **April 21**.

To download the Academic Application form, go to http://danr.ucop.edu/recruitment/UC_Application.pdf.

To request an Academic Application form, contact Geralyn Unterberg at (510) 987-0027 or geralyn.unterberg@ucop.edu.

Names in the news

4-H safety program wins award

UCOP Risk Services recently honored ANR's Environmental Health and Safety team for their work with the Statewide 4-H Youth Development Program to develop a safety program. Brian Oatman, EH&S manager, Richard Smith, specialist II, and Mark Barros, specialist I, shared the award with their colleagues in 4-H. The Award for Innovation honors a new or innovative project or approach to an environmental health and safety situation that shows measurable success in the area it was designed to improve.

The EH&S directors from the 10 campuses, five medical centers, one lab and ANR each vote on the submittals.

Working with the 4-H Policy Advisory Committee, Statewide 4-H Program staff, and ANR Risk Services, ANR EH&S staff evaluated 4-H program activities, considered potential risks, and then developed guidance to make these activities safer. Three major products were developed by the EH&S Office for 4-H YDP during 2007. These products were reviewed by the 4-H

Policy Advisory Committee to ensure all relevant program activities were considered and that the guidance was useful and applicable to the 4-H program. All of the documents are available on the ANREH&S Web site at <http://safety.ucanr.org/4h>.

The award-winning program includes a 4-H Safety Manual, specific 4-H Water Safety Guidelines, a series of 50 Clover Safe

notes and associated activity sheets. Clover Safe notes target the youth members and consist of one-page training tools that provide specific health and safety guidance for topics requested by 4-H program staff and volunteers. Each Clover Safe note is accompanied by a one-page activity sheet, which may be a crossword puzzle, word search, or quiz to reinforce the information.



From left, Mignonne Pollard, Marilyn Johns, Richard Smith, Sandy Sathrum, Carla Sousa, Valerie Williams, Sharon Junge, Mary Engebret, Vicki Bosworth, Mary Harmon, Catherine Montano, Diane Metz, Tony Burkhardt and Brian Oatman share the UCOP award for an innovative safety program.

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Mussen honored by peers

Cooperative Extension honey bee specialist Eric Mussen of the University of California, Davis — widely sought for his expertise on colony collapse disorder or “vanishing bees” — is the recipient of the Distinguished Achievement Award in Extension from the Pacific Branch of the Entomological Society of America.



The apiculturist, whose career spans 31 years at UC Davis, was honored April 1 in Napa.

“Eric Mussen has developed a very effective Extension program that uses traditional as well as 21st century techniques,” said PB-ESA president Larry Godfrey, a UC Davis Extension entomologist. “He gives a significant number of presentations every year, publishes a newsletter, and assists people through telephone conversations and one-on-one visits.”

Coggins honored by Citrus Mutual

Charles W. Coggins, a UC Riverside plant physiologist emeritus, has been honored by California Citrus Mutual with the establishment of a scholarship named after him. Each year, the California Citrus Mutual Scholarship Foundation will award the \$2000 scholarship to an upper division student in agriculture.



Coggins, who resigned earlier this year as chair of the board of directors of the California Citrus Quality Council, a position he held for 14 years, is credited with extending the growing seasons of navel and Valencia oranges from 9 months to 12 months. In the late 1950s, Coggins found that when gibberellic acid was applied to citrus it delayed senescence of the rind. His discovery helped provide year-round employment for pickers and packing house workers, and permitted marketing organizations to maintain continuity with their customers.

Quarles, Nader lead national wildfire information network

UC Cooperative Extension advisors Steve Quarles, of Contra Costa County, and Glenn Nader, of Sutter-Yuba counties, have been named Community of Practice leaders for the eXtension Wildfire Information Network.

“This is an excellent opportunity to coordinate our outstanding extension programs in wildfire with colleagues in other states” said Rick Standiford, associate vice president. “We are excited by the national visibility being directed to this high-priority program, and ANR’s role in helping to coordinate the effort.”

Wildfire is among five new Communities of Practice within eXtension to collaboratively develop and deliver information to American audiences. Communities of Practice represent the priorities of each Extension Committee on Organization and Policy region.

The other four new Communities of Practice are Sustainable Agricultural Energy Systems; Meat Goat Industry; Water Quality: Drinking Water Issues; and Families, Food & Fitness.

A nonprofit Web-based organization, eXtension is a collaborative for land-grant university researchers to share information on a range of topics. The eXtension Web site is at www.extension.org.



Steve Quarles



Glenn Nader

“Charlie is one of few scientists who have done groundbreaking research that has been applicable to a remarkable degree to both fundamental science and practical crop production,” said Donald Cooksey, the interim dean of the College of Natural and Agricultural Sciences. “The use of gibberellic acid in citrus culture that Charlie pioneered and developed stands out as one of the major applications of plant growth regulators to a crop of worldwide importance.”

Dogan named 4-HYD advisor

Shannon Dogan has been named 4-H Youth Development advisor for Placer-Nevada counties, effective July 1.



Currently, she is working as a graduate researcher at UC Davis to develop and test an ecological model of how early contextual resources might promote resilience during adolescence that carries forward to emerging adulthood and promotes academic, work, peer and romantic competence. She will earn her Ph.D. in Human Development at UC

Davis, under the mentorship of Rand Conger, in June. She holds a bachelor’s degree in Human Development and a master’s degree in Child Development, both from UC Davis.

Dogan can be reached at sjdogan@ucdavis.edu. She will be based in the Auburn office.

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Federico Gomez, Financial Services accountant, is chairing the group. The rest of the working group is composed of Jennifer Bunge, Budget principal analyst; David White, Affirmative Action senior analyst; Lynn Deetz, Contracts & Grants principal analyst; Margaret Leong, Human Resources principal personnel analyst; Katherine Webb-Martinez, Planning & Evaluation principal analyst; and Claudine Kent, Controller and Business Services principal analyst. Kay Harrison Taber, assistant VP – Administrative Services, is a resource to the group.

They are expected to submit a report and recommendations to Dooley by May 1. All Oakland-based staff will have input to the process before its implementation July 1.

Dan Sumner, UC Davis agricultural economist and Agricultural Issues Center director, gave an overview and introduced the speakers. As suspected drivers of higher prices, Sumner listed weather problems reducing supplies, currency exchange rates, Asia's growing demand for farm commodities, energy prices affecting costs, and ethanol demand driving consumption of corn and related commodities.

Brian Wright, UC Berkeley agricultural economist, presented "Influence of Commodity Markets – Past & Present." He noted over the years, California's productivity has increased – partly thanks to UC research and extension – causing a fairly steady decline in prices. "Occasional price spikes don't last long," he said.

While he acknowledged that the shift of corn for ethanol and the Chinese income surge are driving food and livestock feed demand, Wright said the market looks like a conventional high-price situation attributable to low interest rates and a weak U.S. dollar. He left open the possibility that irrationality could be contributing to high prices.

He also called corn ethanol policy ill-advised because of the conflict it creates between food consumers and energy consumers. "Food consumers will come out badly because demand for biofuels will win," Wright opined.

"We have to think about increasing supply," said David Zilberman, UC Berkeley agricultural economist, as he talked about "Energy Costs, Biofuels & Resource Implications." Referring to China's increasing wealth, he said, "Once people have capital and cars, they want to use them."

Zilberman predicts that land and water constraints will affect which crops are selected to produce biofuel. The perennial grass miscanthus is the most productive, he said, requiring 18 million acres to produce 35 billion gallons of ethanol, in contrast to the 40 million acres of corn needed to produce the same amount.

Colin Carter, UC Davis agricultural economist discussed "Asian Demand & Exchange Rates as Drivers for the Boom." Prices for all agricultural commodities

except livestock have risen dramatically, he said. "China is a net exporter of corn and rice, so it is not driving demand for those commodities."

"Since September, the U.S. dollar has fallen 9 percent," Carter said, "but commodity prices have gone up much more than the decline of the dollar." He added, "Changes in the dollar don't affect input costs of producing U.S. commodities so prices shouldn't be affected much. I think the dollar has something to do with this story. I think it's interesting that all prices are rising, but it doesn't explain the rapid rise in price."

Gordon Rausser, UC Berkeley agricultural economist, presented "R&D in Renewable Energy." He said research and development is needed for both lowering feedstock costs and lowering processing costs for economical energy alternatives. Observing that universities and corporations are investing in cellulosic ethanol, conventional ethanol and biodiesel research, Rausser predicts "in 5 to 10 years, there will very likely be major discoveries that will change how we produce energy."

Research funding and farm productivity

Julian Alston, UC Davis agricultural economist, also reported on his study of U.S. agricultural productivity growth and the benefits from public R&D spending.

Based on 55 categories of outputs and 58 categories of inputs, Alston estimates the return on research investment is 25 times.

UC budget, UCOP restructuring

Dooley talked about the changing face of California to a more diverse and urban population and some of the challenges that lie ahead for agriculture, including competing for land and water.

"It's time we define ourselves by future opportunities and not past deeds," Dooley said. "I intend to initiate a long-term planning process. Among our desired outcomes is to develop a process to remain highly relevant to needs of the state of California."

In a thorough review of ANR, Dooley said, "I want to take a look at the university

as a whole to make sure we are appropriately organized and aligned to meet the challenges of the future. We'll aggressively integrate with other parts of UC. We can leverage resources if we reach out beyond our traditional allies."

Dooley introduced Katherine Lapp, UC executive vice president for business operations, who gave an update on UC's budget and restructuring efforts in the Office of the President.

Lapp explained that although UC was not subject to the mid-year cut that most state agencies took in January, the 10 percent cut proposed in the governor's budget for 2008-09 would leave a gap of \$417.4 million between revenues and planned expenditures. She noted that since 1990, the state's share of educating UC students has dropped from 78 percent to 60 percent of the total expense and students are shouldering more of the cost.

Lapp also explained how UCOP restructuring eliminated 404 positions from 1,749 FTE and cut expenses by \$52 million, a 20 percent reduction. She anticipates saving another \$1.5 million from the departure of employees who accept the voluntary severance package. By consolidating operations and moving units out of UCOP to campuses, Lapp foresees additional UCOP budget savings.

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