

UCSD
CAMPUS NOTICE
University of California, San Diego

OFFICE OF THE CHANCELLOR

September 4, 2007

ALL ACADEMICS AND STAFF AT UCSD (including UCSD Medical Center)

SUBJECT: Update on UC San Diego Environment and Sustainability Initiative (ESI)

I am writing to provide an update regarding UC San Diego's environment and sustainability developments. The Environment and Sustainability Initiative (ESI) that I announced in 2005 has helped to catalyze a variety of research, education, and outreach activities across campus and to create partnerships with the greater San Diego region. I encourage you to visit the ESI website, <http://esi.ucsd.edu>, to learn more about ESI activities.

I am pleased to announce that Prof. Paul Linden, chair of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering, assumed the role of director of the ESI on July 1, 2007. Paul brings a distinguished record of achievement in environmental engineering and energy-efficient building design to his leadership of the ESI. I am grateful to Prof. Charles Kennel for his fine work as the founding director of the ESI; his contributions enabled the initiative to be launched successfully. Dr. Kennel has graciously agreed to continue to represent the ESI to the external science and policy community, and he will establish and chair a distinguished international advisory board to help guide the ESI.

Dr. Lisa Shaffer, who previously served as assistant director at the Scripps Institution of Oceanography, will serve as ESI's executive director, reporting to the vice chancellor for Research. While at Scripps, Lisa played an important role in many of the campus developments in sustainability. Working with interested students, she initiated the process that led to creation of the UCSD Advisory Committee on Sustainability and its academic programs and did the original work to create the UCSD sustainability website, <http://sustain.ucsd.edu>, where information is now available about environment and sustainability education, research, and campus operations. Lisa's contributions to ESI have been critical; we are delighted to have Lisa joining the Office of Research Affairs in this important position.

Update on UC San Diego Environment and Sustainability Initiative (ESI)

It is gratifying to see that the need to understand and solve interdisciplinary challenges like climate change, energy demand, and material life cycles has become a priority for the investments we are making across our broad research and education enterprise. I am also pleased to see that the use of our campus as a living laboratory for introducing greener and cleaner operations is making it a national and international model for sustainability.

To underscore our campus commitment to provide leadership on a national and global scale, I have asked Vice Chancellor for Research Ellis to chair a working group to develop a vision and plan for what we are currently calling the UC San Diego “Climate and Sustainability Institute” that builds on the strong foundation provided by the Scripps Institution of Oceanography and the ESI. The institute will facilitate the development of solutions-oriented collaborations across disciplinary, geographic, and cultural boundaries. The members of the Climate and Sustainability Institute Working Group are listed below. I invite you to contact them with your input.

As another measure of our commitment, departments have identified at least 15 upcoming faculty recruitments in areas relevant to the environment and sustainability. Another six new faculty appointments have been set aside to fill critical cross-campus needs related to these intellectual themes. I have asked the working group to advise me on how best to use those appointments to enhance the impact of our research, education, and outreach activities.

Under the leadership of Vice Chancellor for Business Affairs Relyea and Interim Vice Chancellor for Resource Management and Planning Matthews, the campus has implemented many innovative programs and technologies to monitor and reduce the environmental footprint of the campus and lessen our dependence on fossil fuels. In order to strengthen this campus effort, I have established a position for a UC San Diego Sustainability Coordinator. This individual will be responsible for coordinating internal campus sustainability efforts, including conducting campus sustainability assessments and promoting campus awareness and action related to sustainability.

Finally, I want to encourage faculty, staff and students to review the proposed Principles of Sustainability, which can be found at <http://blog.ucsd.edu/sustainability/about/>. I anticipate that we will announce, on Earth Day 2008, our adoption of a set of Principles that, like our existing Principles of Community, will serve as a foundational document that reflects the values of this campus and our commitment to the future. I welcome your feedback on the draft Principles of Sustainability.

We all have a stake in sustainability. With its extraordinary history, resources and expertise, UC San Diego is uniquely positioned to create and communicate new knowledge and practices that will help our society move confidently forward. I look forward to working with you as we draw upon our tradition of innovation to build a sustainable future together.

Update on UC San Diego Environment and Sustainability Initiative (ESI)

Climate and Sustainability Institute Working Group: Steven Briggs, Richard Carson, Teddy Cruz, Art Ellis (Chair), Larry Frank, Tony Haymet, Ralph Keeling, Wayne Kennedy, Paul Linden, Farrokh Najmabadi, Naomi Oreskes (consultant), Kim Prather, Susan Shirk, Larry Smarr, Robert Sullivan, Gabriele Wienhausen, Clinton Winant.

Marye Anne Fox
Chancellor