

ANNOUNCEMENT

Introduction and Overview

UC Santa Cruz has long thought of increasing the percentage of students who are in graduate or professional school. Recently, the external accrediting team from the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) applauded UCSC's ambitions. The WASC visiting team observed that our traditional commitment to excellent undergraduate education invites UC Santa to keep pace with the times and noted that at schools around the nation, undergraduates are benefiting from their contact with graduate and professional students.

Now, the Academic Senate is working in collaboration with Chancellor Denton and Interim EVC Klinger to help move the campus to the next stage in planning. Specifically, the Senate is soliciting ideas from faculty about possible "professional schools." By professional schools, we mean units that may have a primary focus on degrees other than the Doctorate.

Two different ideas are already being considered. One concerns some form of a business school to be based in Silicon Valley. Another concerns the development of a School of Education. It is the hope of the Senate that other ideas may also gain solidity. We expect that some of the ideas that are voiced might foster inter-divisional research and teaching clusters even if they do not lead to full-blown schools.

Caveats and Contexts

Issues of growth and change can arouse anxieties as well as stir hopes. We do not intend to move rapidly. The present dire budget situation precludes the immediate development of any professional school. Budget troubles also make this the ideal time to plan for future professional schools and other programs targeted at increasing our graduate presence. After all, good ideas take time to be developed conceptually and more time to be implemented.

We are not eager to place different factions in the faculty in competition with each other for scarce resources. Yet we believe that there is much to be gained by opening the planning process to the entire Academic Senate. Only by allowing different ideas to be aired can we best identify ways to collaborate, especially when collaborations might involve faculty from disparate divisions.

The planning process that we have developed involves several steps. In the first, faculty donate their own time and energy to develop the germ of a plan. In the second step, faculty are compensated for their continued involvement. Subsequent steps will unfold in ways that are dependent on the first two steps.

The overall schedule of the multi-stage planning process is as follows. In the summer of 2005 interested faculty develop preliminary proposals for new professional schools. The preliminary proposals are due on October 1, 2005. Two months later, several finalists will be notified and asked to develop detailed proposals. The detailed proposals are due August 1, 2006. Funds will be provided to finalists to provide some support or relief time so that they may develop full proposals. The full proposals are not meant to supplant existing ideas (e.g., a School of Education) but rather to supplement them.

Elements of a preliminary proposal.

The preliminary proposals are due October 1, 2005 to the Academic Senate Office (125 Kerr Hall or senate@ucsc.edu). They should be 5 to 10 pages long. Ordinarily, several faculty members would work together to develop a preliminary proposal.

Pre-proposals should include six parts. Within each part, it is important to answer a number of questions.

1. Mission

What is the mission of the school? How do the mission and aims of the school align with the mission and character of UCSC and UC?

2. Support and basis

Who is on the development team? Who on the faculty is eager to be part of the school at various points in its development?

Who in the community beyond the campus might support the school and in what ways?

3. Structure of the school

What is the envisioned structure of the school at various points in its development and at maturity?

What degrees are to be granted? What programs are to be offered? What are the curricular issues?

What is the general administrative structure?

How will the school link to existing careers and jobs? To professional associations?

4. Physical plant

What are the envisioned physical aspects? What are its location and support needs and how will these change over the course of development?

5. Need and benefit

What is the need for this School nationally and regionally. How does it fit within the academic mission of UC and UCSC?

In terms of research and instruction at all levels, what benefits will the School bring to various constituencies on campus?

6. What are the net costs of developing and operating the School?

In general terms, what will be the financial and human resource costs at various points in development?

What sources of income are likely in the short and long term?

What are the anticipated difficulties in developing and maintaining the school and how can these difficulties be surmounted?

The review process.

Oct 1, 2005 Pre-proposals due to the Academic Senate Office (send to senate@ucsc.edu or 125 Kerr Hall). All proposals will be made available to the campus community on the Senate web site.

Nov 1, 2005 The Senate will provide its input and recommendations for the second round to the Administration.

Dec 1, 2005 Administration announces finalists.

Spring, 2006 Teams are given either course relief, discretionary funding; or a combination. Each team can be given either \$15,000 or 3 courses of relief or a combination.

August 1, 2006 Full proposal due to the EVC.

Additional note

We anticipate most of the ideas that do not lead to the establishment of a professional school will nonetheless prove extremely interesting. We are convinced that there is value in having people across the campus learn the great ideas of others so that some unanticipated collaborations might take place.

