PRESIDENT JANET NAPOLITANO

NATHAN BROSTROM
EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT – CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

Re: ACSCANR Role in ANR Funding Task Force

Dear Janet and Nathan:

The Academic Council Special Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources (ACSCANR) has prepared the attached letter noting that it expects to participate in the work of a task force being appointed to examine the financial and business structure of the Division of Agriculture and Natural Resources (ANR).

Council formed ACSCANR in 2011 to enhance shared governance in ANR and enable the formal involvement of the Senate in ANR decision-making. Since then, ACSCANR has provided thoughtful policy guidance related to the ANR budget, its academic and capital planning, and the intersection of its teaching, research, and outreach missions.

ACSCANR’s broad membership – which includes the Senate chairs or vice chairs of the three campuses with an Agricultural Experiment Station as well as representatives from CCGA, UCORP, and UCPB – positions it well to offer advice to the Council and Administration about a financial model for ANR that benefits both ANR and the University as a whole and that enhances ANR’s roles in the University’s research and teaching missions, and in its public service mission to California’s agricultural community.

Vice Chair Dan Hare and I look forward to working with you on next steps.

Sincerely,

Mary Gilly, Chair
Academic Council

Cc: Academic Council
Executive Director Baxter
Senate Executive Directors
MARY GILLY, CHAIR
ACADEMIC COUNCIL

Dear Mary,

The Academic Council’s Special Committee on ANR (ACSCANR) was established in 2011 and was given the following charge:

To consult with leadership from the Division of Agriculture and Natural Resources (ANR), on a regular basis, to review the mission and strategic objectives of the Division, and to consider issues related to the ANR budget, the Division’s academic and capital planning, and the intersection of its academic and outreach missions.

Recently, members of ACSCANR learned of the formation of a task force to examine how ANR should be funded which is to report to the President by late December. ACSCANR understands that this task force was formed in response to a proposal from ANR to change the source of ANR’s ~$ 70 M in state appropriations from campus assessments to funds taken “off the top” in the UC budgetary process. ANR also revised policy for the return of the indirect cost recovery funds generated by those faculty members to ANR after deducting campus costs supporting that research. Although it may be true that the proposed changes in funding may benefit ANR, there is no evidence that such changes benefit UC as a whole. Whatever funds are taken off-the-top for specific purposes, for example, cannot be distributed to the campuses for the costs of instruction. ACSCANR members also questioned to what extent there would be significant Indirect Cost Recovery (ICR) funds to be returned to ANR after campus expenses were deducted.

ACSCANR therefore welcomes the formation of the task to examine how ANR is funded. Please convey to the President and the Chief Financial Officer that ACSCANR expects to contribute to the work of the task force to develop an appropriate funding model for ANR. Such a funding model should address the evolving mission of ANR for the 21st Century and should be beneficial not only to ANR specifically, but to UC overall.

Sincerely,

J. Daniel Hare
Chair, ACSCANR
Vice Chair, Academic Council

cc: Hilary Baxter Academic Senate Executive Director
    ACSCANR