Regents approve 2002-03 state budget request; Governor proposes cuts in current budget

The Regents on Nov. 15 approved a budget proposal for the 2002-03 fiscal year that, in a time of economic downturn, requests state funding to cover UC’s minimum requirements for maintaining quality programs, ensuring student access, and keeping faculty and staff compensation as competitive as possible.

The budget proposal, which serves as UC’s funding request to the state, is limited to seeking funding for the Partnership—a set of agreements with the Davis administration that outlines funding expectations for the state and performance expectations for UC. The budget does not include additional initiatives.

Due to the decline in the state’s economic fortunes, budget reductions in the 2002-03 fiscal year may be necessary at UC. The Legislative Analyst’s Office has projected a $12.4 billion state budget shortfall for California by the 2002-03 fiscal year, reflecting the sharpest decline in state revenues since World War II.

The Regents have begun discussing options to cope with possible cuts in the 2002-03 budget. UC administration officials have identified five kinds of options if major cuts are needed: deferring state-supported summer instruction, limiting faculty and staff salary increases, constraining student enrollment growth, increasing student fees and implementing targeted cuts for programs that have received substantial funding increases in recent years.

No decisions have been made, but the Regents’ discussions will help inform the Davis administration’s decision making as Gov. Gray Davis prepares to unveil his proposed 2002-03 state budget in January.

“Given the reality of the state’s fiscal situation, we will have difficult choices to make in the year ahead,” said President Atkinson.
In mid-1998, Richard Wilson, then director of the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, asked Associate Vice President Vaux to appoint a blue ribbon panel of experts to review the scientific evidence on the cumulative impacts of logging on watersheds and water quality in the North Coast Region.

The nine-member panel included seven UC scientists. The project was administered by the UC Center for Forestry on the Berkeley campus.

The panel’s report was delivered to CDF’s current director, Andrea Tuttle, in July. The report outlines a new approach to assessing cumulative watershed effects using a risk-based gaming strategy. The report points to the high variability in watershed processes, and recommends a high-level analysis approach to modeling how this variability translates into a risk assessment. It also contains a number of examples of how this risk-based approach could be used in assessing various cumulative watershed effects.

The 103-page report (UC Wildland Resource Center Report No. 46) can be ordered directly from the Center for Forestry (forestry@nature.berkeley.edu) or viewed on their website: http://nature.berkeley.edu/forestry/cwe/cwe_i.html.

“The University’s research capabilities are a resource not only for the people of California but also for its governmental entities,” Vaux said. “As these two cases illustrate, we in the Division are pleased to provide scientific advice that will prove useful to legislators and departments of state government in the making of public policy.”

Sacramento County UCCE welcomes new director (from p. 1)

workforce preparation, and in 1999, she was selected as one of five Extension faculty members from around the country to serve on the management team of USDA’s Workforce Preparation National Initiative Program.

She also played a key role in the mid-1990s in changing the role of WVU Extension Service so that it could be a more effective leader in improving the quality of life in West Virginia. One of 24 members of the WVU Extension Service Redesign Task Force, she helped develop and implement a new framework for the organization. The goal was to integrate teaching, research and public service to ensure that faculty had more opportunity to share their expertise with diverse populations.

Her accomplishments at WVU helped propel her into her newest role—in which she is again tackling the community development and administrative work she obviously thrives on.

On Nov. 1 Barrett joined Sacramento County Cooperative Extension as its community development advisor and county director.

“The Division is fortunate to have someone with Gloria’s Cooperative Extension expertise and knowledge joining the family,” said Central Valley Region Director Linda Manton. “Her extensive background in community development, her strong management and leadership skills and her knowledge of working with local agencies and clientele are exactly what we were looking for.”

In addition to carrying out her new duties, Barrett is finishing up work for a doctorate in education from WVU, focusing on communication information systems, with an emphasis on the adult learner. Her daughter is a doctoral candidate in the same EdD program.

Barrett was raised in Temple, Texas, just north of Austin. She came to Extension by way of nursing, having earned a master’s of science degree in nursing from Texas Woman’s University in Denton in 1977.
We must ensure that choices made in the near term are consistent with the goals we have set for the long term, and the most important of these goals is to maintain the quality and vitality of the University.”

Meanwhile, Davis has proposed budget reductions in the current year across state government, including $86 million in savings at UC. The governor has requested that all state agencies take steps to begin implementing the cuts pending legislative action to formally approve them in January.

The governor presented these mid-year budget reductions for UC: $25 million of the $75.6 million the state provided this year to help cover increases in UC’s energy costs; $6 million of the $56.9 million appropriated for the California Professional Development Institutes, which provide professional development for K-12 teachers; $5 million in one-time funding for clinical teaching support at the medical centers, neuropsychiatric institutes and dental clinics.

The governor also proposed that $50 million of the $95 million allocated for the California Institutes for Science and Innovation be provided through lease-revenue bonds rather than through the state General Fund.

“It is, of course, disappointing to begin considering budget cuts at the University at a time when we are really just beginning to recover from the sharp cuts of the early 1990s,” said Larry Hershman, UC vice president for budget. “However, we know the state is facing a serious fiscal situation, and we are committed to playing a part in the solution. We will do all that we can while preserving the quality of our core educational programs as much as possible.”

Gov. Davis’ proposed mid-year budget reductions can be found at http://www.dof.ca.gov.

A closer look at 2002-03 budget proposal

- Funding to keep faculty and staff compensation as competitive as possible, including a 2 percent average general salary increase, merit increases averaging approximately 1.5 percent for eligible faculty and staff, and an additional 2 percent increase in the faculty and staff salary pool, to be distributed to employees in positions where compensation lags the market. (Salary increases are subject to collective bargaining requirements, where applicable.)

- A 10 percent increase in funds to help cover the rising cost of providing health insurance to employees.

- Funding for enrollment growth of 7,100 full-time equivalent students, a 4.3 percent increase over 2001-02, to maintain UC’s commitment to offer a place to all students who meet its eligibility requirements.

- An assumption that the state will continue the practice of the last seven consecutive years of providing state funding to avoid a student fee increase. However, depending on the severity of the budget cuts that may be necessary in 2002-03, the University’s ability to avoid student fee increases may need to be re-evaluated.

- A 4 percent increase in nonresident tuition ($428).

- Funding to continue phasing in state support for summer instruction, continue strengthening the quality of the undergraduate instructional program, provide expanded support for graduate education, and continue a multi-year program addressing ongoing budget shortfalls in building maintenance, instructional technology and library materials.

Were the budget proposal fully funded, UC’s state-funded operating budget would total $3.65 billion in 2002-03, an 8.7 percent increase over the current year.

UC budget documents are available at http://budget.ucop.edu/pubs.html.

Water quality/IPM materials available for county offices

The UC IPM Project and the Urban Horticulture Workgroup along with ANR Communication Services have developed a set of attractive color posters illustrating how pesticides get into California creeks and rivers and how to employ IPM practices to prevent problems.

The set of three posters comes in two sizes: 22 inches by 28 inches for displaying on easels or in four 28-inch-by-40-inch panels that can be used on the tabletop display recently distributed to UCCE offices in the Central Valley Region.

The posters include the beautiful images created by CS artist Celeste Rusconi for the UC IPM pesticides and water quality webpage (http://www.ipm.ucdavis.edu/WATER/U/index.html). Any ANR office may order the posters from ANR Communication Services, which will print them for free up until Jan. 1 and at cost after that. (Email your request to dancommmserv@ucdavis.edu and be sure to specify WQ poster (set of three) or WQ display (four panels).

Pest management cards win Innovator Award

Also available as part of this educational package is a set of 10 colorful 8.5-inch-by-3.5-inch consumer pest-management cards outlining IPM practices for eight pests and general information on IPM and the safe use and disposal of pesticides.

The cards were originally developed in conjunction with the Sacramento UCCE office and the Sacramento Stormwater Pollution Program and just won an IPM Innovator Award from the California Department of Pesticide Regulation.

Contact Mary Louise Flint (mlflint@ucdavis.edu) at the UC IPM Project for copies of the cards while they last. The short answer information contained in these cards is now available on the UC IPM website linked to the UC Pest Notes for ants, aphids, cockroaches, fleas, lawn insects, spiders, termites and tree borers.

Spanish versions of these Quick Tips can be found at http://www.ipm.ucdavis.edu/QT/qtindexsp.html.
COMING UP

MARCH
Integrated Pest M management for Public Agencies Conference
March 4-5; UC Davis; Contact mflint@ucdavis.edu or register online at http://www.cevs.ucdavis.edu/Cofred/Public/Aca/VP Gomes reappointed to food and ag board

G ove. Gray Davis has selected Vice President Gomes to serve another four-year term on the California State Board of Food and Agriculture.

The 15-member board advises the governor and the Secretary of Food and Agriculture on agricultural issues and consumer needs. The board may make investigations, conduct hearings and prosecute actions concerning any matter or subject that is under the jurisdiction of the Department of Food and Agriculture. The board’s members are selected to represent a broad range of agricultural commodities, a variety of geographic regions and both the University of California and State University systems.

Of the 11 appointments the governor made to the board on Dec. 6, Gomes’ was the only reappointment. New appointees include Charlie Crabb, dean of the College of Agriculture at Chico State and a former ANR regional director.

Meister brings knowledge, experience to Imperial CE

B orn in Taylor, Texas, and raised on a farm just north of Austin, Herman Meister spent his early years working with livestock and driving tractors, combines and cotton pickers.

He graduated from Texas Tech University with a major in entomology and a minor in agronomy, then attended graduate school at Oregon State University majoring in entomology.

His first job was with UC Cooperative Extension, as an entomologist working out of the basement in the old courthouse in El Centro. After leaving UCCE, he worked several years as an independent entomologist out of Brawley. Eventually he started his own experimental research farm and contract research service. He began his new assignment on Oct. 1, as an agronomy farm advisor in Imperial County, bringing with him a great deal of knowledge and experience.

DANR Analytical Laboratory to introduce a new fee structure at new year

O n Jan. 1, the Division’s Analytical Laboratory will implement a more equitable fee structure for its analytical services, says Director Dirk Holstege.

The adjustments, he says, are not intended as fee increases—the lab does not expect to generate additional income from these changes.

The lab’s goal, he says, is to create a more rational pricing scheme based on the actual costs of testing.

The lab started moving toward that goal last July when it increased—from 50 to 100—the allocation of complimentary determinations that advisors and specialists receive per year. Under the new fee structure, this translates into an annual credit of $200 that can be applied toward testing at the lab. The allocation continues to be non-transferable and does not carry forward from year to year.

Holstege says that in the past the lab charged a flat fee for each determination, regardless of the work involved.

The new fee structure is based on the actual cost (personnel time, supplies and instrument time) of performing each analysis. For advisors and specialists, the fee for most tests will range between $1.30 and $2.10.

In addition, the Analytical Laboratory will now offer certain predefined tests at a reduced rate when they are run as a group because it costs the lab less to run certain tests together.

Questions? Contact Holstege at 530/752-0148 or dmholstege@ucdavis.edu. The new fee schedule is available on the lab’s website: http://danranlab.ucdavis.edu/. To obtain a hard copy, contact the office at 530/752-0147.

ANR REPORT
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