



UC-Mexico Initiative Bulletin

No. 1
August 2014

Governor Brown's Trade Mission to Mexico and the California-Mexico Higher Education Working Group Meeting

As part of the activities of Governor Jerry Brown's trade mission to Mexico City (July 28-29, 2014), UCR Chancellor Kim Wilcox led a meeting of the California Mexico Higher Education Working Group (CMHEWG), made up of representatives from the California Community Colleges, the University of California Office of the President, the California State University Chancellor's Office and the Association of Independent Colleges and Universities. Representatives from Mexico included officials from the Ministries of Foreign Affairs (SRE) and Education (SEP), The National Council of Science and Technology (CONACYT), The United States-Mexico Commission for Education and Cultural Exchange (COMEXUS); The National Association of University and Higher Education Institutions (ANUIES), and other entities affiliated with Mexican higher education.

The UC delegation also attended the signing of the MOU between California and Mexico's Ministries of Education and Foreign Affairs, as well as CONACYT. The MOU calls for greater collaboration among segments of higher education in each country to strategically improve and efficiently "scale up" new partnerships.

Chancellor Wilcox and others in the UC delegation held separate meetings with the Director of the Institute for Mexicans Abroad, Ernesto de Lucas; the Director General for Cooperation and Internationalization at the National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM), Armando Lodigiani; the Director General for Higher Education at SEP, Salvador Malo and the Director General for International Affairs at the National Council for Culture and the Arts (CONACULTA), Jose Luis Martinez, to follow up on discussions related to projects to be supported by the UC Mexico Initiative.



Signing of the MOU, from left to right: CONACYT Director Dolores Sanchez; Secretary of Foreign Affairs Antonio Meade; California Governor Jerry Brown; Under Secretary of Education Enrique del Val y Blanco.

UC President Napolitano's Trip to Mexico

President Janet Napolitano traveled to Mexico City on May 21-22, 2014, accompanied by Chancellor Kim Wilcox, UC MEXUS Director Exequiel Ezcurra, Chief of Staff Seth Grossman, Associate Chancellor Cindy Giorgio, and Assistant Director of Media Relations Dianne Klein. The visit followed a March trip to Mexico City by a delegation led by Provost Aimée Dorr. The agenda for President Napolitano's visit included meetings with Mexican government officials, academics, researchers, UC Education Abroad Program students, UC alumni and others interested in bolstering bilateral cooperation through the newly announced UC-Mexico Initiative.

The agenda for President Napolitano's visit included meetings with Mexican government officials, academics, researchers, UC Education Abroad Program students, UC alumni and others interested in bolstering bilateral cooperation through the newly announced UC-Mexico Initiative.

A memorandum of understanding between UC and the Mexican National Council of Science and Technology (CONACYT) designated a workgroup to identify additional opportunities for research collaboration and exchange as well as new sources of revenue, in preparation for renewal



CONACYT Director General Enrique Cabrero and UC President Napolitano sign the MOU.

of the joint UC-CONACYT Agreement. Workgroup members include Exequiel Ezcurra, UC MEXUS; Professor Lisa Levin, UCSD; and Professor Jaime Sepulveda, UCSF.

Napolitano also attended the official launch of the Bilateral Forum for Higher Education, Research and Innovation (FOBESII) hosted by the Mexican Ministry of Foreign Affairs, which was also attended by U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry.

For additional information about FOBESII, see: <http://mex-eua.sre.gob.mx/images/stories/PDF/PROPUESTA-FOBESII-FINAL-INGLES.pdf>

Read the press release: <http://ucrtoday.ucr.edu/22679>

UC-Mexico Initiative Advisory Council and Working Groups

President Napolitano will appoint a high level advisory committee to provide strategic direction, establish policy, and seek resources for the Initiative. Discussions and contact with prominent members of UC and academic institutions in Mexico are currently underway to determine membership of the high level advisory committee. The advisory committee will also provide oversight to working groups made up of key academic leaders and other stakeholders from both sides of the border. These working groups will generate the programs and activities that form the core of the Initiative. Themes for the working groups have not yet been identified, but will be based on issues of common interest to researchers both in UC and in Mexico.

Staffing of the UC-Mexico Initiative

Veronique Rorive and Alberto Díaz have been selected as the Assistant Directors of the UC-Mexico Initiative. Veronique is based at UC Riverside and Alberto is based at the UC Office of the President in Oakland. Both Veronique and Alberto will conduct the day to day activities related to the UC Mexico Initiative and will be the primary points of contact within the UC system and for our partners in Mexico.

Veronique has worked in Mexico directly and indirectly in several research, administrative and academic settings, and almost 20 of these years while at UC Riverside: first as a student working under the guidance of Professor Arturo Gómez-Pompa, then in administrative roles at UC MEXUS, UC Riverside's Center for Conservation Biology and Office of Undergraduate Education. She has experience in developing and maintaining strong and resilient research and academic networks.

Office Tel.: 951-827-4558; Cell.: 951.202.7668

Email: veronique.rorive@ucr.edu



Alberto has an extensive background on U.S.-Mexico issues as a result of his 18 years of experience as a member of the Mexican Foreign Service, as part of the Mexican Consulates in Los Angeles, Seattle, Atlanta and San Diego. He earned a B.A. in Journalism at the National Autonomous University in Mexico (UNAM). His most recent charge was heading the Office of Political Affairs and Economic Promotion at the Consulate General of Mexico in San Diego. In that capacity, he oversaw academic exchange initiatives in the San Diego-Baja California area.

Office Tel.: 510-987-9847; Cell.: 951.312.5772

Email: alberto.diaz@ucop.edu

Veronique and Alberto have already held meetings with UC Riverside faculty and deans, the director of UC MEXUS and the Consul of Mexico in San Bernardino to learn about existing Mexico-related activities and needs, and identify potential opportunities to create new connections or expand current linkages. One of their first goals is to visit each of the UC campuses and respective Mexican Consulates before the end of the Fall Quarter 2014.

Search for UC-Mexico Director Announced

A search committee for the UC-Mexico Director has been appointed and the internal search for a faculty director (0.5 FTE) is expected to be completed by early fall. The Director is responsible for providing leadership in developing a University-wide strategy for engagement with Mexican partners. Reporting to the UCR Chancellor with a dotted line to the UC Provost, the Director will establish strong working relationships with academic institutions, government agencies, and non-government organizations in Mexico, including UNAM, CONACYT, CONACULTA, ANUIES, SEP, and SRE, for the purpose of developing shared goals and mechanisms for coordination and oversight.

The search committee is chaired by Patricia Gandara, professor of education and co-director of the Civil Rights Project, UCLA. Other members are Melissa Floca, Center for US-Mexican Studies at UCSD; Jaime Sepulveda, UCSF Global Health Sciences; Ed Taylor, Rural Economics of the Americas and Pacific Rim at UCD; and Jose Wudka, professor of physics and astronomy and chair, Academic Senate, UCR.

Read more about this position: <http://chancellor.ucr.edu/exec^searches/director^ucm.html>

A word of appreciation – Michael T. Clegg

A heartfelt thank you to Michael T. Clegg, UC Irvine Distinguished Professor, who has served as Acting Director of the UC-Mexico Initiative. Mike provided valuable leadership in spearheading the discussions at the UC-Mexico Workshop in January and guiding the formative stages of this initiative. Thank you Mike!

Noteworthy links:

[*The Bonds between California and Mexico will only grow stronger*](#)

Op-ed by Mexico's Secretary of Foreign Affairs, Jose Antonio Meade, on California-Mexico relations; *The Sacramento Bee*; July 23, 2014

[*México y California, unidos por vínculos sólidos que fortalecen a la región*](#)

Op-ed by Mexico's Undersecretary of Foreign Affairs, Sergio Alcocer, on links between California and Mexico; *Excelsior*; July 21, 2014

Questions? Ideas? Updates? Need more information?

Please contact:

Alberto Diaz, alberto.diaz@ucop.edu, tel: 510.987.9847

or

Veronique Rorive, veronique.rorive@ucr.edu, tel: 951.827.4558

or

uc-mexico@ucr.edu