

July 30, 2018

Professor Travis Huxman, Co-Chair
Assistant Vice Chancellor Richard Demerjian, Co-Chair
Senior Associate Vice Chancellor Mark Warner
Associate Vice Chancellor Rick Coulon
Associate Vice Chancellor Brice Kikuchi
Assistant Vice Chancellor Janet Mason
Associate Dean and Professor Brandon Gaut
Chair and Professor Oladele Ogunseitan
Professor Alex Guenther
Professor Kailen Mooney
Professor Brett Sanders
Assistant Professor Jesse Jackson
Executive Director Mitchell Spann
Senior Director Jennifer Smith
Urban Forest Superintendent Danny Hirschag
Senior Construction Project Manager Kyoko Adachi

RE: Appointment to UCI Naturescape Advisory Committee

UCI has a deep and rich history of research, teaching, outreach, and campus planning on issues of the environment, along with the interaction of society and natural landscapes. Faculty, staff, and students have leveraged several natural areas, gardens, and environmental facilities on or near the main campus to support this scholarship. These outdoor spaces comprise UCI's naturescape, and they include the North Campus Arboretum, San Joaquin Marsh Reserve, Ecological Preserve, Greenhouse, Aldrich Park, currently undeveloped parcels within the campus footprint, and active plantings associated with landscaping. Consistent with UCI's Long Range Development Plan, the campus is currently discussing relocating one of these facilities—the North Campus Arboretum—to the main campus. This programing presents an opportunity to re-vision the Arboretum's scope as a more extensive botanical garden that integrates UCI's environmental spaces to more effectively serve the campus as a living laboratory and address UCI's current strategic plan goals.

I write to request your participation on a UCI Naturescape Advisory Committee, with a charge to advise campus leadership on the following topics:

- Role of UCI's natural areas, gardens, and environmental facilities (including a main campus botanical garden) in serving research program and teaching needs; supporting student experience, wellness, and co-curricular needs; and expanding opportunities for visitor and community engagement
- Relationship between a main campus botanical garden and the San Joaquin Marsh Reserve, Ecological Preserve, Greenhouse, and Aldrich Park; resource sustainability and coordination of planning, management, and operations among faculty, researchers, and Facilities Management personnel

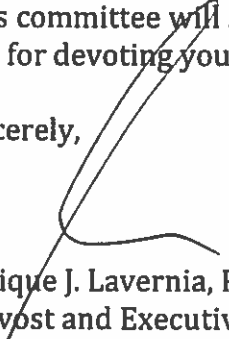


- Relationship between spaces such as the biological collections and greenhouse, and public art programs that include the proposed Museum and Institute for California Art
- Opportunities to physically, hydrologically, and ecologically link the San Joaquin Marsh Reserve with the Ecological Preserve via strategic programming of Aldrich Park
- Opportunities to strategically position new access points, trails, and research and teaching spaces in place of those currently located on the North Campus
- Strengthening the relationship between faculty, researchers, and Facilities Management to leverage the campus for place-based, living-laboratory activities that tackle grand challenges and impact how UCI works
- Development of an “Environmental Research Space” on current coastal zone designated lands adjacent to Jamboree Road on North Campus supporting the ecological and hydrologic scholarship that historically occurred within the footprint of the North Campus Arboretum
- Strategy and phasing for decommissioning and relocating the North Campus Arboretum, including options for continuing to serve teaching and research needs during a transition

I have asked Professor Travis Huxman and Assistant Vice Chancellor Richard Demerjian to co-chair this committee and engage additional campus stakeholders and external community representatives as needed to support this work. I am requesting the committee’s recommendations by December 1, 2018.

This committee will serve an important role in shaping the vision for UCI’s naturescape. Thank you for devoting your valuable time to this effort.

Sincerely,



Enrique J. Lavernia, Ph.D.
 Provost and Executive Vice Chancellor
 Distinguished Professor,
 Chemical Engineering and Materials Science

- C:
- Associate Chancellor and Chief of Staff Arias
 - Associate Chancellor Brase
 - Associate Provost and Executive Vice Chancellor Lefkoff
 - Chief Financial Officer and Vice Chancellor Cortez
 - Vice Chancellor Hervey
 - Vice Chancellor Khargonekar
 - Interim Vice Chancellor Dormitorio
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