I. Welcome

Chancellor Leland welcomed the group and apologized for her jet lag, just having returned from Washington, D.C., and began the full agenda promptly.

II. Campus-Wide Issues

**College vs. Research Institution**

*Chancellor Leland*

Chancellor Leland addressed this anonymously submitted topic, although she shared that she wasn’t quite clear about exactly what information was being sought. She explained that a college primarily serves undergraduates whereas a research university serves undergraduates and graduate students with a strong focus on research. She indicated that we have set an aggressive goal to increase the graduate student population to 6-10%. She invited the individual that submitted the topic to provide her with more specifics if she failed to fully address the inquiry.

**UC Merced’s Role in UC President’s Initiatives**

*Vice Chancellor Reese*

Vice Chancellor Reese commented that President Napolitano is very focused in her goals. He acquainted Council participants with her recent systemwide initiatives and referred to a Powerpoint in presentation of an overview of the broad portfolio of initiatives that President Napolitano has introduced in recent months.

**Carbon Neutrality**

*Vice Chancellor Reese*

Vice Chancellor Reese introduced Assistant Vice Chancellor for Facilities Management Graeme Mitchell to speak on the Carbon Initiative. Graeme explained that the initiative called for UC System zero net or carbon neutrality, and explained that we are very fortunate to already be a national leader in sustainability thanks to our forward leading and aggressive efforts. He presented his Powerpoint, “To Become the First Major University System to Achieve Carbon Neutrality” and explained the next goal is to bring the University to carbon-neutrality in its operations by 2020. UCM has joined four other
UC locations in receiving the status as energy service providers (ESP) effective March 27, 2014, and UC Merced is not constrained as are some other locations with respect to becoming an energy provider. UC Merced will also work California to explore the commercial viability of producing bio gas using waste materials as a resource, though he suggested it may be a challenge to be competitive with natural gas. Additional plans include growing the current solar field and solar energy efforts. UC Merced could become an electric generator and supplier to other UC locations. This future growth may require transmission lines to other campuses in order to help other campuses meet their requirements and this could be a great opportunity for our campus. Research of other technologies will be encouraged. Our campus has found it possible to cut our expenses in half by generating electricity rather than buying it.

**Undocumented Students**

*Vice Chancellor Lawrence*

Jane explained that undocumented students are born outside of US and they are not citizens of any country and therefore can produce no citizenship documentation. These students are not eligible for federal financial aid. Some are qualified to receive California financial aid under the California Dream Act. Currently there are 170 undocumented students enrolled at UC Merced and 900 systemwide, which means that UCM serves approximated 20% of the undocumented students in the UC system. The students have an average high school GPA of 3.5, and a family income averaging $22,700. They are therefore very financially needy. Our undocumented student enrollment is expected to increase to 250 next year and there is no immigration reform on the horizon to help improve their situation. President Napolitano has allocated $5M to support undocumented students systemwide. UC Merced received $460,000 in one time funding to be used over the next two fiscal years. A portion of this will be used for financial aid and several other programs are in place to assist these students including a dedicated staff member in Admissions to coordinate services, expansion of the Fiat Lux Program, support and advisory services via the Bright Center to improve retention, supplemental instruction in writing and oral English skills, support with the complexities of DACA process (these students have no Social Security cards), career mentoring, and emergency funds. Director (Center for Career and Professional Services) Brian O’Bruba has planned “bootcamps” for undocumented students to help them work on skills related to their resumes, interviews, internship opportunities, part time jobs, etc. This group of students also find themselves in need of the services of the food pantry and the emergency fund. Jane shared that a common attitude with the undocumented students is their deep appreciation and their wish to give back to their campus.

**Technology Commercialization**

*Vice Chancellor Traina*

Vice Chancellor Traina explained that while considerable research goes on at UC campuses, there is a competitive gap because only small percentages of research becomes commercialized, and the commercialization process can take many years. Compared to other research institutions in California, we spend only half as much to try to
commercialize technology, leaving us behind on the fiscal effort and slowing the pace of “tech transfer” of our research entering the market and the world. Some of the UC Regents believe royalty income could help close the budget gaps, as well as be considered as a contribution to the state’s economic viability, perhaps also yielding political benefits. President Napolitano has asked for new programs, including a new office to deal with tech transfer in an effort to help facilitate relationships between UCs institutions and the private sector. There are opportunities for small business start-ups calling for a Merced Small Business Management Office, a “business incubator,” that would increase the involvement of the “Innovate to Grow” program, which offer opportunities for students to reach commercial sponsors. A couple of UCM students have received patents. There will be more emphasis on seeking venture capital funds to invest in faculty-driven research. UCLA has used a strategy of outsourcing licensing patents and license activities through a non-profit entity and UCM will consider such a plan.

In summary, Chancellor Leland commented that research foundations in the private sector offering their expertise to universities is not new, a practice seen across the rest of the nation. She expressed her opinion that seeking enhanced programs for undocumented students is a very important effort. She also feels we can look forward to exciting prospects with sustainability and we are clearly fortunate to not be land locked, as are some other campuses.

III. Updates / Information Sharing

Follow-up on Campus Climate World Café – March 26, 2014

Ombuds Acker

Ombuds Acker passed out a matrix of data, which is also available on the Chancellor’s website. She revisited the topics and asked council participants to have short discussions small groups to discuss question number three, “What would you do personally to enhance campus climate and encourage respect and inclusion?” De shared some of her ideas for enhancing the campus climate, including recruiting for diversity, providing more areas to gather, and the creation of focus groups.

The Chancellor posed the question as to how we might better involve disenfranchised staff from off-campus? She announced that there is need for hourly staff get the similar opportunities to participate in events (such as Staff Appreciation Week), as are provided to professional staff.

Chancellor Leland added that she wishes to see an increase in agenda items that are submitted for the Leadership Council meetings and her vision is to facilitate more interactions and get away from meetings that are merely “talking heads.” She asked that the group please share more ideas, especially those outside of reports and updates, to help provide a collective interaction of ideas within the group of leadership council members.
Space Management Process & Website

Vice Chancellor Feitelberg, Principal Planner Cummings and Manager Lutz

Vice Chancellor Feitelberg reported that leadership continues to discuss placement on and off campus, mindful of interconnections and networking opportunities for staff. The group is seeking more dialogue and transparency with respect to space management. The logistics of the working group began with information and processes researched by De Acker and John White. Dan introduced Principal Planner Cummings, who emphasized that we need to optimize use of our space, but in a transparent manner. The Space Management process was formed in 2012, and the committee reports to Provost Peterson. There has been a consolidation of space related information on the website for the Office of Planning and Budget. Submission of a space request form begins the process of review with the Space Advisory Committee. The request then goes to the Real Estate Services Group Committee and they provide a recommendation. The committee may ask for more information if needed. The ultimate decision is made by the Provost. Requests are archived for future reference. The next meeting is scheduled for May 14, 2014. Richard reported that the management of space is surprisingly complex and the coordination of several teams is required. The process must pass through the Vice Chancellors, seeking the most collaborative uses of space and avoiding a “shell game of filling openings.”

IV. Brief Announcements

Updates Executive Searches
No report given at meeting. Update later distributed to Leadership Council via e-mail.

V. NEXT MEETING: Wednesday, May 28, 2014 (subsequently cancelled)