

UC Observatories Board Charge

October 3, 2012

The UC Observatories represent a major investment by the University of California in observing facilities to support astronomical research and education throughout its 10-campus system. The past investment has been an important element in bringing excellence to astronomical research at UC. To provide oversight of the management of these resources as well as to recommend the most effective use of the systemwide funding, the Office of the President (UCOP) will establish a new UC Observatories Board. The purpose of this board is to:

- 1) Help optimize the research and educational opportunities and total investment made by UC in systemwide shared astronomical facilities including Lick, Keck, and the Thirty Meter Telescope observatories.
- 2) Oversee the implementation of long-range plans for UC supported astronomical facilities.
- 3) Provide guidance on major decisions within the purview of the UC Observatories and telescope facilities.
- 4) Oversee shared governance of the UC Observatories by ensuring that the program plans and budgets are developed by the UC community and the UC system.

The UC Observatories Board advises the Vice President for Research and Graduate Studies (VPRGS) as part of the Office of the Provost at UCOP. The Board will also provide its reports to the Portfolio Review Group (PRG), the UCO Director and the appointing official for the UCO Director, and the UCO Advisory Council.

The Board will meet at least twice each year with additional meetings scheduled as requested by the Board or the VPRGS.

The Board will be responsible to carry out the following tasks:

1. Annually receive from the UC Observatories Director a proposed budget including work breakdown plans for the individual faculty and staff as well as project and program plans. The Board will discuss the proposed plan and provide its own recommendation to the VPRGS for review and approval. The Board's recommendations will take into account systemwide opportunities and investments in astronomy, currently including Lick Observatory, Keck Observatory, the Thirty Meter Telescope, and the UC Observatories and fit within the range of available funding.
2. Recommend approval of a long-range (5 years) strategic plan submitted by the Director to support UC astronomical facilities. In consultation with the VPRGS, the Board may also establish a separate system-wide committee to aid priority setting for UC Astronomy & Astrophysics and the UC Observatories as needed. Any such committee will report to the UC Observatories Board.
3. Annually evaluate the performance of the UC Observatories against the long-range plan.
4. Recommend criteria for evaluation of the UC Observatories Director and, should the Board so choose, UCO senior management positions. Recommend the makeup of the search committee for a new Director when needed and advise on its recommendations for appointment of a Director.
5. Consult with the Portfolio Review Group on systemwide principles and goals in order to carry out and submit its annual assessments.

6. Advise on policy issues impacting Lick Observatory, and UC's share of Keck, and TMT, including issues brought by the VPRGS, the UCO Director, and those originating within the committee itself. The Board will ensure a dialogue with all UC astronomy campuses on policy issues in a timely way.

The Board will solicit input from interested parties as needed. It should solicit input from the UC Observatories Advisory Committee (UCOAC), the UCO Director, and representatives of the California Association for Research in Astronomy (CARA) and the Thirty Meter Telescope (TMT) as appropriate to its charge and other UC constituencies as needed to formulate its recommendations.

Membership

The UC Observatories Board will consist of thirteen members, six astronomers, at least two other UC faculty members and five UC administrators. The VPRGS will solicit nominations widely, including representatives from the UC astronomical community, the faculty senate, and the 10 campuses, and choose members in consultation with the Provost. UCOP budget personnel will act as ex-officio board members. Other ex-officio members may be invited to meetings as appropriate with mutual concurrence of the Board and the VPRGS. Initial appointments to the Board will be for 3 years; a member's term may be extended by mutual concurrence between the member and the VPRGS. The VPRGS will choose a Chair from among the membership in consultation with the Provost; the Chair's term will be for one year and can be extended upon mutual agreement between the Chair and the VPRGS.

Targeted Administrator Membership (5)

- Campus Provosts and Executive Vice Chancellors
- Vice Chancellors for Planning and Budget
- Vice Chancellors for Research

Targeted Faculty Membership (8)

- Faculty members will be appointed including at least two of at least six nominated by the Academic Senate in addition to those chosen by the VPRGS including:
 - 6 Astronomers (UC and external)
 - 2 UC faculty members representing other fields

The VPRGS will review the efficacy and need for the Board every three years and may either augment or decrease its activities, depending on the needs of UC.