



UNIVERSITY COMMITTEE ON RESEARCH POLICY (UCORP)  
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Assembly of the Academic Senate  
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October 24, 2011

**ROBERT ANDERSON, CHAIR  
ACADEMIC COUNCIL**

**RE: University of California Research Mission Statement**

Dear Bob,

With state funding to the University of California undergoing unprecedented decreases, it has become critical to reaffirm the research theme that is central to the mission of the University of California. Additional impetus is evidenced by recent administration communications that disconnect research from the educational functions of the University. As just one example, the UC Office of the President has utilized language such as:

“A sizable portion of the funding provided by the State has little or nothing to do with educating enrolled students, but rather supports organized research, public service, or financial aid...”<sup>1</sup>

The logical extension that expenditures on research are, by their nature, somehow distinct from “educational” expenses has become increasingly common in public discussions of UC’s budget crisis.

The University Committee on Research Policy views research as central to all academic enterprises. The University’s mission statement affirms that our institutional obligation “includes undergraduate education, graduate and professional education, research, and other kinds of public service, which are shaped and bounded by the central pervasive mission of discovering and advancing knowledge.”<sup>2</sup> Our institutional mission thus casts our educational enterprise as shaped by the very definition of research itself.

Research is, of course, pivotal in the creation of non-professional graduate degrees, but it is also vital in providing the superlative undergraduate educational experiences that attract students to our university. From a societal viewpoint, the twin research/educational enterprise of UC has furnished the intellectual horsepower that has driven 21<sup>st</sup> century California industries, such as the biotechnology industry and Silicon Valley; UC research has equipped leaders across all sectors of the California educational and

<sup>1</sup> From “Cost of Education Calculations at the University of California,” from Budget and Capital Resources, University of California, April, 2011.

<sup>2</sup> From: <http://www.universityofcalifornia.edu/aboutuc/missionstatement.html>

business landscape; and UC research has, across all disciplines, produced entrepreneurs who have profoundly benefited our state's economy.

It is the production of such research-educated students and citizens that is the distinguishing role of our University among California's state-funded institutions. Hence, our research and educational enterprises are fundamentally coupled.

UCORP submits a University of California Research Mission Statement to reaffirm the central role of research for the University of California during this time of budgetary stress and into the future. We request that Council endorse this Statement and forward it to the Assembly, the President and The Regents for endorsement and adoption, as well.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'John Crawford', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

John Crawford, Chair  
UCORP

Encl.

cc: UCORP  
Steve Beckwith, Vice President, Office of Research and Graduate Studies  
Martha Winnacker, Executive Director, Systemwide Academic Senate

## University Committee on Research Policy (UCORP) Proposed UC Research Mission Statement

### *Short Mission Statement:*

University of California — We discover, interpret, apply, educate and communicate.

### *Full Mission Statement:*

Research is central in the University of California's mission to benefit California and the world as we discover, interpret, apply and communicate new knowledge and innovations that ensure the quality education we provide our students, inspiring them to be leaders and contributors to the public good.

- **Research:** The California Master Plan for Higher Education designates UC as "the state's primary academic research institution," charged with providing the highest quality both in research and in undergraduate, graduate and professional education.
- **Discover:** UC researchers discover new basic and applied science, technological, social, and cultural knowledge that benefits California and the world.
- **Interpret:** UC researchers make new discoveries while also preserving and re- exploring historical and cultural knowledge.
- **Apply:** The work of UC researchers inspires new ways of thinking, solutions and innovations that catalyze the industries, economy, society, and culture of California.
- **Educate:** UC researchers give students unique access to the newest and best research that prepares them to be life-long learners, leaders and contributors to society. At UC, research and teaching are part of a single act of exploring and communicating knowledge.
- **Communicate:** As both researchers and educators, UC faculty are committed to conveying new knowledge, discoveries to our students, stakeholders, policy makers and the public.