

## April 11, 2012 University of California Office of the President Document

### Background on identifying Scientific Experts for nomination to the Scientific Review Panel on Toxic Air Contaminants.

Under the California Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006, [Health & Safety Code Sec 39670(b)(4)] the President of the University of California is requested to submit a pool of scientific experts from which designated state officials will appoint a Scientific Review Panel on Toxic Air Contaminants<sup>1</sup>. Within the Office of the President, the Office of Research and Graduate Studies (ORGS) normally provides the President with an appropriate slate of experts in response to this and other such requests from the legislature, State agencies or regulatory bodies in need of members with broad knowledge of scientific topics relevant to their work. Recently UCOP received requests for a pool of experts in the areas of Epidemiology, Occupational Medicine, and Toxicology from which individuals could be nominated to fill positions on the Scientific Review Panel on Toxic Air Contaminants.

The Scientific Review Panel on Toxic Air Contaminants acts in an advisory capacity to the California Air Resources Board, the Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA) and the Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR) and has no decision-making regulatory authority or research funding authority.

These are the steps we used to produce a slate of candidates:

1. We used the membership of nationally recognized scientific organizations and academies, and consulted with other University of California recognized experts to identify California researchers who have the expertise required to serve on this panel.
2. We contacted the resulting superset of candidates to determine their availability and interest for participation in the advisory activity.
3. We asked interested potential candidates to disclose any activities that could result in a real or perceived conflict of interest on a form developed by UC:
  - The UC COI form asked researchers to disclose any financial interests in the work of the proposed advisory group, such as competing for research funds or investment in companies affected by the state agency, since many of these boards have regulatory powers. The UC form also asked researchers to disclose relevant organizational affiliations, government service, public statements and positions, research support.
4. We provided a list of scientific experts judged to be well-qualified scientifically and free of self-disclosed conflicts of interest is provided to the President for recommendation to the organization or to the appointing body.

The above-described disclosure process is internal to UC. The University of California is not statutorily required to vet the pool of nominees submitted to each appointing body for conflict of interest. Any review of self-disclosed conflicts by UC could be made available to the designated State appointing officials, but should not substitute for the designated State appointing officials' own review of the candidates. After the President has submitted the pool of candidates to the designated State appointing officials, each appointing body will then undertake an additional review process which may include interviews and further conflict disclosure, as required under state law, prior to making the appointment to the Scientific Review Panel on Toxic Air Contaminants.

---

<sup>1</sup> California Health and Safety Code Section 39670.4 states that "Members of the [Scientific Review Panel on Toxic Air Contaminants] shall be appointed from a pool of nominees submitted to each appointing body by the President of the University of California. The pool shall include, at a minimum, three nominees for each discipline represented on the panel, and shall include only individuals who hold, or have held, academic or equivalent appointments at universities and their affiliates in California."