



Office of the Chancellor

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May 14, 2013

Executive Committee  
Irvine Faculty Association

To whom it may concern:

It is not our practice to respond to anonymous letters. In an academic institution the ability to hold, express, and exchange divergent opinions openly is one of the cornerstones of academic freedom, and open debate cannot be undertaken with anonymous correspondents. However, we assume you are members of our faculty, and therefore we offer the following response.

Throughout the provost/executive vice chancellor search all members of the UC Irvine community, especially faculty, have had myriad opportunities to participate in the process. These included town halls where we solicited comments and suggestions on the ideal characteristics for our P/EVC; active solicitation of the faculty, staff, and students to attract nominations during the international search; inclusion of a broad spectrum of UC Irvine faculty, staff, and students on the 22-person selection committee; and opportunities for faculty, staff, and students to meet with the finalists, who cumulatively spent dozens of hours over a number of days undergoing exhaustive questioning and review by more than 50 people each. Additionally, throughout the search process we maintained a recruitment website that provided the opportunity for individuals to make comments and suggestions to the search committee. Ultimately hundreds of our colleagues availed themselves of these opportunities and contributed to the process, for which we are thankful and appreciative.

Regarding your specific concerns, we routinely investigate questions about all of our finalists, and move forward only when we are satisfied with the results. Each of the allegations outlined in your letter was brought to light during the search process either by your colleagues on the search committee or by the search firm. These allegations were thoroughly and independently examined and either determined to be unsubstantiated or were resolved to our satisfaction.

The candidate we choose to bring into our university will embody our campus values and will be a pillar of the academic community.

Michael V. Drake, M.D.  
Chancellor  
Co-chair, Search Committee

Albert F. Bennett  
Hana and Francisco J. Ayala Dean  
School of Biological Sciences  
Co-chair, Search Committee