To the Faculty Legislature, Santa Barbara Division:

According to Academic Senate Divisional Bylaws and Regulations, Appendix II, D1.93, the Executive Committee of the Bren School of Environmental Science & Management is a committee of the Academic Senate authorized as an organization through which the Faculty of the School can coordinate the academic affairs of the School. The Committee reports to, and is responsible to, the Academic Senate and its officers. The Executive Committee is distinguished from Administrative committees that are created by the Administration and are responsible to, and report to, Administrative Officers.

The Faculty Executive Committee (FEC) for the Bren School of Environmental Science & Management met eight times during the academic year. The following is a list of the major issues addressed by the FEC:

1. MISSION STATEMENT. The Bren School faculty had attempted many times over the years to update its mission statement, which dated to the founding of the school. This year the FEC designed a successful process for adopting a new mission statement. Our new mission statement is: The mission of the Bren School is to solve environmental problems. The Bren School develops interdisciplinary solutions to environmental problems, trains environmental leaders, and works for a sustainable future.

2. DIVERSITY. The FEC played a central role in creating the Bren School Diversity Committee and adopting a Diversity Values statement that can be found on our website. Throughout the year, the FEC worked to increase representation of females and unrepresented minorities among the faculty, staff, and student body. This year, many Bren School faculty participated in Safe Zone training.

3. FTE PLANNING. The FEC led this year's FTE planning process, producing the Bren School’s FTE Planning Report. As part of this process, the FEC led a faculty retreat on February 12 to prioritize future hires. The faculty agreed that its greatest need is in the area of Corporate Environmental Management and plans to search for a new faculty member in fall 2017. Other priority areas, including environmental biology and environmental economics, were also identified. Because the Bren School’s FTE allotment is filled, we are looking at other opportunities to hire new faculty. The FEC initiated a process whereby the Bren School would internally review UC President’s Postdoctoral Fellows and cultivate potential recruits.

4. ACADEMIC PERSONNEL. The FEC led a faculty retreat to discuss the Academic Personnel process. The goals of the retreat were to 1) build a shared understanding of the Academic Personnel process and the objectives it serves, 2) increase the quality of the Academic Personnel process, including the preparation and logistics of subcommittee letters and self-assessments, and 3) develop guidance for the preparation of faculty cases. The FEC Chair is developing a guidance document that captures the major points of discussion.

5. COMMITTEES. The FEC conducted a review of faculty committees in the Bren School and identified a number of opportunities for eliminating committees, reducing faculty staffing on committees, and transferring responsibility from committees to the FEC. A new, streamlined committee structure was adopted that should increase the efficiency and effectiveness of committees at the Bren School.
6. **EMPLOYEE POLICY.** In response to a request from the Academic Personnel Office, the FEC helped to create a Unit 18 Lecturer Workload and Course Equivalencies policy. In addition, in response to a request from Graduate Division Dean Carol Genetti, the FEC helped to create a new policy for hiring Graduate Student Researchers.

7. **NEW HIRES.** The FEC Chair played a central role in the recruitment and hiring of Dr. Ashley Larsen, a UC President’s Postdoctoral Fellow. Ashley received a PhD in Ecology, Evolution, and Marine Biology and a Master’s degree in Economics from UCSB and was most recently a postdoctoral researcher at UC-Berkeley. Her research focuses on land use configurations and the consequences for ecological systems, ecosystem services, and human health. Ashley fills critical teaching needs of the Bren School in the area of ecology. The FEC Chair also served on the search committee for a new Assistant Dean for Development. The Bren School, working together with Central Development, appointed Dr. Lotus Vermeer, who most recently worked at The Nature Conservancy.

8. **FEC MEMBERS + ELECTION OF NEW MEMBERS FOR 2016-17.** The FEC conducted a secret ballot of the faculty to elect new members for next year.

Members of the Faculty Executive Committee: Andrew Plantinga, Chair, Patricia Holden, Sarah Anderson, Ben Halpern, and Steven Gaines, Dean and ex officio.

Andrew Plantinga, Chair

Patricia Holden

Sarah Anderson

Ben Halpern