Dear Colleagues,

I would be honored to have your vote for Vice Chair of the Academic Senate.

This is a pivotal time for UC San Diego. As Vice Chair, and Chair the following year, I would bring direct experience navigating institutional challenges – from federal and state budget cuts to graduate education reforms and shifts in undergraduate admissions and preparation.

For two years, I have served as Chair of the Senate Committee on Planning and Budget, working closely with campus leadership and the Senate Council. I have also directed for five years a large interdisciplinary PhD program spanning seven UCSD schools. Our program successfully navigated major disruptions during the pandemic and the 2022-23 union negotiations.

If elected, I will focus on:

- **Budget and Funding:** With shrinking federal support and state cuts, we must prepare for reduced indirect cost recovery and research funding. Faculty input is critical in shaping financial priorities and protecting our core mission.

- **Graduate and Undergraduate Education:** New union negotiations will directly impact how we support and train graduate students. I will advocate for clear communication between faculty and administration to ensure sustainable, high-quality research training and mentorship. Our faculty must be involved in assessing how contract terms will impact our ability to support and teach our graduate students.

- **Equitable Access and Success:** Undergraduates increasingly arrive under-prepared for many STEM majors. We must build a supportive bridge – from community colleges to UCSD – so all students can be set up to succeed in the majors of their choice.

- **Shared Governance and Community:** Communication, trust, and transparency are essential as we face difficult decisions. I am committed to ensuring faculty voices are central to shaping UCSD's future.

If elected, I will work to ensure that Senate decisions are thoughtful, inclusive, and aligned with the values that define our university.

Sincerely,

Terry

THERESA (TERRY) GAASTERLAND
Professor, Scripps Institution of Oceanography

Professor Terry Gaasterland joined UC San Diego in 2003 and is currently a faculty member at the Scripps Institution of Oceanography, as well as a founding faculty member of UC San Diego's Institute for Genomic Medicine (https://igm.ucsd.edu/faculty) and Director of the Bioinformatics and Systems Biology Graduate Program (https://bioinformatics.ucsd.edu/faculty), an interdisciplinary Ph.D. program at UC San Diego. She holds a Ph.D. in Computer Science (1992) and an M.S. in Computer Science (1988) from University of Maryland College Park and a Bachelor of Science degree from Duke University in Computer Science and Slavic Studies/Russian (1984).

Professor Gaasterland trained as a computer scientist with emphasis in databases, automated reasoning and reasoning with uncertain information, and transitioned to the application of methods in databases and logic-based artificial intelligence to interpret and analyze genomic sequence and gene expression data, reflected in over 100 refereed publications. Her research program aims to develop and apply methods to identify genes and the impact of their genetic and evolutionary variation on regulation of transcription and on protein domain structure and function. Professor Gaasterland has extensive experience with microbial genome sequencing and annotation, use of RNA-seq data to identify genes in assembled genomes from novel organisms, software tools to detect horizontally transferred genes in microbes, the management and analysis of large next-generation high-throughput sequencing datasets, and the sequencing and analysis of marine microbial, eukaryotic, and human genomes. In current work, she develops and uses methods in computational genomics to focus on the genetics of primary open angle glaucoma, evolution of metastatic prostate cancer, and foundations of signaling pathways in stem cell maintenance and differentiation. Through comparative analysis of genome variation, gene expression, and microRNA::mRNA binding activities, Professor Gaasterland identifies potential causal variants leading to dysregulated cellular response to environmental stresses, and thus conferring risk for late age onset of disease.

Professor Gaasterland has received several prestigious awards including the N.S.F. Presidential Early Career Award in Science and Engineering (PECASE) in 2000, the Burroughs Wellcome New Investigator Award, and the New York City Mayor's Award for Excellence in Science and Technology. She was named a Senior Member of the Association of Computing Machinery in 2010. In 1997, she co-founded the International Society of Computation Biology (ISCB) which is now the flagship professional society for computational biology and bioinformatics. She was named an ISCB Fellow in 2018. As ISCB's Vice President for 15 years, she sought to ensure that the professional society was inclusive of young trainees and scientists from nations at all economic tiers and established geographically accessible Bioinformatics conferences in Africa, Latin America, and southern Asia.

Professor Gaasterland has served twice on the Academic Senate's Committee on Planning and Budget (CPB; 2010-2012 and 2022-2025), including as Chair for the past two years; and once on the Committee for Academic Information Technology, including one year as Chair (CAIT; 2015-2018). During 2012-2015, she served on the Chancellor's Advisory Committee on the Status of Women, including one year as Chair. Professor Gaasterland seeks constructive ways to define opportunities and address problems, and values communication and transparency as of the utmost importance to executing effective change and stewardship of academic goals and principles.