UCSB
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA
SANTA BARBARA

Susan and Bruce Worster Dean of Mathematical, Life, and Physical Sciences
University of California, Santa Barbara
Santa Barbara, California

THE SEARCH

The University of California, Santa Barbara (UCSB) invites nominations and applications for the position of Susan and Bruce Worster Dean of Mathematical, Life, and Physical Sciences (MLPS). UCSB is ranked #8 globally in interdisciplinary science by *Times Higher Education*, with world-renowned scientists, including four Nobel Prize winners in the sciences (two in physics and two in chemistry) and it is well-known for innovation across disciplinary boundaries. The Dean will have the unique opportunity to lead the distinguished and dedicated faculty, staff, and students of MLPS to sustain continued excellence across research, teaching, and service.

UC Santa Barbara is a preeminent public research university and member of the American Association of Universities (AAU). *Forbes Magazine*, which showcased 500 of the finest U.S. institutions of higher education in its 2024-2025 America's Top Colleges list, ranked UCSB as the #8 public university in the country. It is home to 12 national centers and institutes, including the Kavli Institute for Theoretical Physics and the AI Institute for Agent-based Cyber Threat Intelligence and Operation. Its 1,107 faculty members include six Nobel Laureates in chemistry, physics, and economics, 56 American Academy of Arts and Sciences members, and more than 30 members of the National Academy of Sciences; more than 80 current or former faculty are elected fellows of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. The campus enrolls about 26,000 students and, with only five colleges and professional schools, offers the benefits of a premier research university with a focus on and appreciation for an intimate undergraduate learning experience. In 2015, UCSB was designated a Hispanic-Serving Institution, the first AAU institution to receive this designation, and is also an Asian American Native American Pacific Islander-Serving institution. UCSB is also known for its natural beauty as the campus sits on a bluff overlooking the Pacific Ocean and is bordered by the Santa Ynez Mountains.

The division of Mathematical, Life, and Physical Sciences (MLPS) sits within the College of Letters & Science as one of four divisions, alongside the divisions of Humanities and Fine Arts, Social Sciences, and Undergraduate Education. In Fiscal Year 2023-2024, MLPS was awarded more than $49M in sponsored research. MLPS offers 40 undergraduate majors and a diverse range of graduate programs. Innovative interdisciplinary courses of study in areas like environmental studies and marine science are one of UCSB's unique strengths.

The Dean of Science will propel the division to new heights in research and teaching, building on historical strengths while identifying new opportunities for innovation and growth. They will steer the division through the challenges of the current funding landscape, build and deepen collaborations across units and with external partners, and advance the reputation of UCSB and, in particular, its MLPS faculty, research, and educational programs. To achieve these goals, the Dean will address several key challenges and opportunities:

- Develop a strategic vision that positions MLPS for even greater success;
- Champion excellent faculty and unlock new interdisciplinary collaborations;
- Create and execute an ambitious fundraising plan for MLPS;
- Thoughtfully oversee and provide innovative leadership for the division's financial, physical, and human resources;
- Collaborate across the College and University to advance the division's success.

A list of desired qualifications and characteristics of the Dean, prepared by MLPS stakeholders with the assistance of Isaacson, Miller, a national executive search firm, can be found at the conclusion of this document. Background information and key details related to the position are also included below.

ABOUT THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA SANTA BARBARA

The Santa Barbara College of the University of California was established on July 1, 1944. It is the third-oldest campus in the University of California System, after Berkeley and UCLA. In the ensuing decades, UCSB has expanded to become a premier research university and is one of only 65 research-intensive institutions in the U.S. and Canada elected to membership in the prestigious Association of American Universities. UCSB offers more than 200 majors, degrees, and credentials in three colleges and two professional schools: the College of Letters & Science, the College of Engineering, the College of Creative Studies, the Bren School of Environmental Science and Management, and the Gevirtz Graduate School of Education.

In 2024-25, UCSB enrolled approximately 23,000 undergraduate students and 3,000 graduate students, with the majority of the undergraduate students enrolled in the College of Letters & Science. UCSB students are highly academically competitive. For the 2023-24 academic year, first year freshmen had an average high-school GPA of 4.3. Over 83 percent of undergraduate and 35 percent of graduate students were living in California when they were admitted to UCSB and 31 percent are first generation college students. Additionally, 70 percent of undergraduate students are first time freshman and 30 percent are transfer students. Just over half of graduate students (51 percent) enrolled in doctoral programs and the remaining in master or other credential programs. UCSB also has a large international student population, with 9 percent of undergraduate students and 34 percent of graduate students coming from different countries or regions.

Research is fundamental to UC Santa Barbara's mission, with extramural funding totaling $267.2 million for the fiscal year 2023-24, of which $147.6 million came from direct federal, $39.3 million from indirect

federal, $33.3 million from non-profit, and $10 million from industry. In addition, UCSB research has resulted in more than 90 startup companies. The UCSB Office of Research helps catalyze the rich culture of research, innovation, and collaboration, providing support for strategic research initiatives, assisting faculty with submitting competitive proposals, providing support for research integrity, and overseeing some research centers and units, including seven natural reserves throughout the state. The campus is home to twelve national institutes and centers and more than 100 other research institutes and centers, including the California NanoSystems Institute, the NSF Quantum Foundry, and the Materials Research Laboratory where scholars from across disciplines work together to expand the frontiers of knowledge and contribute to society.

UCSB is distinguished for its strong emphasis on interdisciplinary collaboration and cross-disciplinary teaching and research, which are a hallmark of the campus. This collaboration is visible across academic programs in such areas as Environmental Studies, Marine Science, Data Science, and Quantitative Biosciences and across UCSB's colleges and schools. This emphasis on collaboration marks a key strength for UCSB, as it enables faculty and students to bring multiple perspectives and approaches to developing solutions to broad, globally significant issues. In particular, MLPS collaborates closely with the College of Engineering, which has been ranked among the top two public universities in the world for engineering research for 13 years.

UCSB operates as one of ten campuses in the UC System, the world's preeminent public university network. In addition to the Santa Barbara campus, the UC System comprises campuses in Berkeley, Davis, Irvine, Los Angeles, Merced, Riverside, San Diego, San Francisco, and Santa Cruz. To learn more about UCSB, please visit http://www.ucsb.edu.

ABOUT MATHEMATICAL, LIFE, AND PHYSICAL SCIENCES

The division of Mathematical, Life, and Physical Sciences is home to 250 FTE faculty, 125 FTE permanent staff, over 11,000 undergraduate students, and over 900 graduate students across a range of disciplines and interdisciplinary programs. The faculty have won numerous awards, including four Nobel Prizes, a national Medal of Science, a National Medal of Technology, and a Millenium Technology Prize, and more than 30 faculty are elected members of the National Academy of Sciences.

MLPS includes nine academic departments (Chemistry and Biochemistry; Earth Science; Ecology, Evolution and Marine Biology; Geography; Mathematics; Molecular, Cellular & Developmental Biology; Physics; Psychological and Brain Sciences; and Statistics & Applied Probability) as well as four interdepartmental programs (Interdisciplinary Program in Quantitative Biosciences (IPQB); Dynamical Neuroscience; Environmental Studies; and Marine Science). For more information on the departments and programs, see https://www.science.ucsb.edu/programs.

MLPS is known for robust scientific research across disciplines. The division includes 21 research centers and 16 affiliated institutes and research centers. For a complete list of these centers see: https://www.science.ucsb.edu/research-centers. UCSB is among the top 25 institutions funded by the

National Science Foundation (NSF). The campus ranks 3rd in the nation in the percentage of assistant professors who receive prestigious research awards from the NSF, the Arnold and Mabel Beckman Foundation, the David and Lucile Packard Foundation, and the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation.

MLPS is dedicated to preparing students for a range of careers in the sciences, industry, and business, or for continued academic research. Undergraduates studying the sciences or mathematics in the College of Letters & Science receive a comprehensive liberal arts education and choose from over 40 majors, including both B.S. and B.A. programs. MLPS works with the division of Undergraduate Education to provide comprehensive academic advising, peer advisors, and a range of tutoring services. Graduate programs include mathematics, statistics, psychology, biology, chemistry, biochemistry, physics, earth science, and geography along with special interdisciplinary programs in quantitative biology, cognitive science, human development, quantitative methods in the social sciences, and computational science and engineering.

ROLE OF THE DEAN OF SCIENCE

Reporting to the Executive Vice Chancellor, the Dean of Science is responsible for all academic and operational areas across the division of mathematical, life, and physical sciences, including staff and faculty management, development of curricula, advancement of research, facilities maintenance, budget, and other functions. The Dean serves as the chief advocate for the division on and off campus and is responsible for leading fundraising efforts in partnership with the division's Development staff. The Dean will be a close collaborator with fellow divisional deans of arts and humanities, social sciences, and undergraduate education, as well as the Deans of the College of Engineering, the Bren School of Environmental Science and management, the Gevirtz Graduate School of Education, and the College of Creative Studies. In addition to two associate deans, the chairs and directors of the academic departments and programs in MLPS and the Directors of many of the research centers and facilities within MLPS report directly to the Dean of Science.

KEY OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES FOR THE DEAN OF MLPS

Develop a strategic vision that positions MLPS for even greater success

The next Dean will build upon a strong foundation of success in research and teaching and will work with the MLPS community and stakeholders to develop a compelling vision for the future. The vision should draw upon the highest aspirations and distinct strengths of the division's faculty and staff and provide a clear path towards reaching even higher levels of excellence in research, teaching, and service. The vision must be nimble enough to help the division navigate a quickly changing landscape while ensuring the institution's mission and ambitions remain at the core of the division's activities. It must be developed in conjunction with the other divisions in the College of Letters & Science and the Colleges of Engineering and Creative Studies, the Bren School, and the School of Education, as well as the Vice Chancellor for Research. Through the strategic vision, the Dean will catalyze the pursuit of research excellence and

expansion across the disciplinary spectrum and will promote the ongoing development and enhancement of outstanding educational programs that position MLPS for the future.

Champion excellent faculty and unlock new interdisciplinary collaborations

MLPS faculty are dedicated and distinguished across research, teaching, and service, and the Dean will work to identify opportunities and provide support to enhance faculty outcomes at all levels. In particular, they will seek to encourage new connections between MLPS faculty and with faculty at other Colleges and Schools and will find creative ways to facilitate and incentivize innovation and interdisciplinary research. They will foster a culture of mentorship and professional development and will drive collaborative solutions to perennial challenges around faculty recruitment including the development of new lab spaces and start-up packages. In doing so, they will maintain and enhance the excellence of MLPS faculty and enhance the impact of research and educational programs across the division.

Create and execute an ambitious fundraising plan for MLPS

Fundraising is key to the continued success of MLPS and the Dean will work closely with the University Foundation and Development staff to craft compelling narratives, inspire new and existing donors, and increase financial support for the division, particularly during times of financial instability and uncertainty about the future of federal funding. The Dean will represent the division nationally and globally, participating in broader associations, speaking to potential donors, and bringing more visibility to the division. They will cultivate both corporate and individual support and will seek new sources of revenue. The Dean will also support enhanced promotion of the institution, helping to build the division's recognition and reputation.

Thoughtfully oversee and provide innovative leadership for the division's financial, physical, and human resources

The Dean oversees the division's budget, physical footprint, and staff and faculty, and will bring a keen sense of how to prioritize, invest, and collaborate to make the greatest possible impact with available resources. They will have strong financial acumen, creatively investing in impactful opportunities during times of abundance and relying on a strong set of priorities to make hard decisions in times of scarcity. They will prioritize a balanced budget and will provide strategic direction around revenue allocation. The Dean will work to improve and expand facilities, equipment, and labs, working with University administration to manage and upgrade available space and pursue new space and capital projects. They will also keep a careful eye on staff and faculty workloads, ensuring transparent and equitable policies are in place so departments can accommodate student enrollment needs and deliver their curricula.

Furthermore, the next Dean of Science will develop creative solutions to current and upcoming challenges. Changes in the federal and state funding landscape and decreasing access to teaching assistants will require the Dean to inspire curricular and pedagogical reform that will allow the division to manage enrollment growth and variations in student demand, ensure students complete their degrees in a timely

manner, provide appropriate resources to impacted majors, and support staff and faculty in balancing workloads through budget reductions.

Collaborate across the College and University to advance the division's success

One of UC Santa Barbara's greatest strengths is its culture of collaboration across offices and units. The next Dean will fully embrace this culture, forging strong partnerships and relationships across the University. They will be a good University citizen, advancing the overall impact of UCSB and leveraging shared resources for the good of the institution. They will galvanize support across administrative units to build collaborations and develop new policies and procedures that enable the division's ambitious goals.

QUALIFICATIONS AND CHARACTERISTICS

UCSB seeks an inspiring leader with an outstanding record of scholarship and strong management and leadership skills. In addition, they will possess a doctoral degree or equivalent and a record of academic excellence that would qualify them for an appointment as a tenured full professor in an MLPS department.

The successful candidate will have many, if not all, of the following qualifications and characteristics:

- A distinguished teacher, scholar, and academic leader in the mathematical, physical, and/or life sciences who brings a passion for academics, research, and teaching;
- Strong administrative experience with a track record of success in a complex institution;
- Intellectual leadership, particularly in interdisciplinary science, with the wide-ranging interests required to understand, appreciate, and encourage the varied work within the MLPS division;
- An astute understanding of finances and the relationship between academic priorities and the budget and the ability to make thoughtful decisions around financial resources;
- A keen understanding of how to manage and enhance physical space resources;
- An extensive track record in building sponsored research, with deep knowledge of the internal and external mechanisms required to sustain and expand a top-tier research program;
- A record of accomplishment that demonstrates a commitment to student success and the University of California's mission as a public university of promoting accessibility, excellence, and community;
- Demonstrated capacity for and interest in fundraising and generating new sources of revenue, including the ability to carry an inspiring message, cultivate key external constituencies, attract partners, raise funds, generate enthusiasm among alumni, and obtain commitments to support MLPS;
- Outstanding communication and listening skills with the ability to articulate a vision, inspire others, attract partners, and generate enthusiasm;
- Strong interpersonal skills and emotional intelligence with the ability to connect with the members of the UCSB community and to work effectively across the campus and with external groups;

- A collaborative approach to leadership and a passion for advancing a unit in alignment with advancing the overall institution.

COMPENSATION AND LOCATION

The official annual salary range for this position is $239,600 to a maximum of $611,100; the budgeted annual salary range that the University reasonably expects to pay for this position is $300,000 to $425,000. Salary offers are determined based on final candidate qualifications and experience.

Located 100 miles up the coast from Los Angeles, Santa Barbara is famous for its natural beauty, intellectual vitality, and thriving cultural scene. The city and its surrounding area provide boundless opportunities for outdoor activities including cycling, hiking, surfing, kayaking, swimming, and running. The Santa Barbara metropolitan area attracts visitors from around the world for its cultural reputation. With its expansive beaches, breathtaking vistas, and world-class hotels, restaurants, and wineries, Santa Barbara is consistently ranked among the best places to live in California and nationally. To learn more about Santa Barbara and the surrounding region, please see www.santabarbara.com.

APPLICATIONS, INQUIRIES, AND NOMINATIONS

Screening of complete applications will begin immediately and continue until the completion of the search process. Applications, including CVs and cover letters, inquiries, nominations, and referrals should be sent via the Isaacson, Miller website: https://www.imsearch.com/open-searches/university-california-santa-barbara/susan-and-bruce-worster-dean-mathematical-life. Electronic submission of materials is strongly encouraged.

Julie Filizetti, Hayden Lizotte, and Gabrielle Harrington
Isaacson, Miller

As a condition of employment, the finalist will be required to disclose if they are subject to any final administrative or judicial decisions within the last seven years determining that they committed any misconduct, are currently being investigated for misconduct, left a position during an investigation for alleged misconduct, or have filed an appeal with a previous employer.

- *"Misconduct" means any violation of the policies or laws governing conduct at the applicant's previous place of employment, including, but not limited to, violations of policies or laws prohibiting sexual harassment, sexual assault, or other forms of harassment or discrimination, dishonesty or unethical conduct, as defined by the employer.*
- *UC Sexual Violence and Sexual Harassment Policy*
- *UC Anti-Discrimination Policy for Employees, students and third parties*
- *APM - 035: Affirmative Action and Nondiscrimination in Employment*

Additionally, you will be required to comply with the University of California Policy on Vaccination Programs, as may be amended or revised from time to time. Federal, state, or local public health directives may impose additional requirements.

The University of California is an Equal Opportunity Employer. All qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender

identity, national origin, disability, age, protected veteran status, or other protected status under state or federal law.