

UCSD and Mesa College enter into a cooperative arrangement to establish an exchange program for students who wish to attend classes at both campuses

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The University of California, San Diego and San Diego Mesa College will enter into a cooperative arrangement this fall which establishes an exchange program for students who wish to attend classes at both campuses.

The agreement, which establishes broad guidelines for a three-year pilot program, will be signed at 11 a.m. Thursday, June 23, by the chancellors of both institutions: Garland Peed of the San Diego Community College District and Richard C. Atkinson of UCSD. The ceremony will take place in Atkinson's office on the UCSD campus and will be attended by administrators from both UCSD and Mesa.

Mesa students will have the benefit of being allowed to take university courses that Mesa doesn't offer while they are completing their AA degrees at the community college. UCSD students will have the opportunity of taking a number of freshman and sophomore level courses and preparatory courses at Mesa which are not offered at Mesa College is the largest community college in San Diego County.

Under the pilot program, students will register and pay fees only at their home campus where they are enrolled as full-time students. In addition, participants in the exchange must meet the enrollment requirements of both campuses they attend. Enrollment in the courses on each campus will be open to the "exchange" students on a space available basis. If the cooperative venture is successful, it may be expanded to include other community colleges in San Diego and Imperial Counties according to the agreement.

"We hope that the exchange opportunity will encourage more Mesa students to continue their education at a four-year institution since they will be introduced to the university system while completing their community college work," said Dr. Allen Brooks, president of Mesa College.

Chancellor Atkinson called the agreement an important step in the growing cooperation between the two segments of public higher education. "The exchange comes at a time when budget restraints are forcing a limitation in the diversity of courses we can offer," Atkinson said.

Peed called the agreement "a good example of intersegmental cooperation between public institutions to eliminate duplication of effort, reduce costs and increase efficiency."

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