

Marjorie C. Caserio, chair of UCI's Chemistry Department, appointed vice chancellor for Academic Affairs at UCSD

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UC IRVINE CHEMISTRY CHAIR MARJORIE C. CASERIO SELECTED VICE CHANCELLOR FOR ACADEMIC AFFAIRS AT UCSD

Marjorie C. Caserio, chair of the Department of Chemistry at the University of California, Irvine and former chair of the nine-campus UC Academic Senate, has been selected as vice chancellor for academic affairs at the University of California, San Diego.

Caserio's appointment, which must be approved by the UC Board of Regents, follows an extensive search to fill what is one of the top administrative posts at UCSD. She will succeed Harold K. Ticho, who has served in the post since 1983. In accordance with UC policy, Ticho retired from his administrative post last July but was asked by Chancellor Richard C. Atkinson to continue to serve through June 30, 1990.

"We are extremely fortunate at UCSD that a person of Marjorie Caserio's academic caliber and leadership strengths has agreed to take on this key position," Atkinson said in announcing the selection. "Her devotion to teaching as well as research, and her administrative abilities make her an excellent choice to guide the academic development of UCSD during this period of growth and change."

Caserio has held faculty positions at UC Irvine for the past 25 years, starting as an assistant professor of chemistry in 1965 when the campus was still under construction. From 1982 to 1984, she served as chair of the Irvine division of the Academic Senate, then became chair of the full UC Academic Senate from 1985 to 1986. Caserio also served from 1984 to 1986 as the faculty representative to the UC Board of Regents.

As an educator, Caserio is considered an excellent teacher of both undergraduates and graduate students and has coauthored four textbooks in her field. During the 1960s and 1970s, one of her books was the most widely used undergraduate organic chemistry textbook in the nation.

In 1975, Caserio received the Garvan Medal of the American Chemical Society for service to the field of chemistry. She is currently chair of the ACS Committee on Professional Training, which sets guidelines for the teaching of chemistry at 580 colleges and universities in the nation.

As a researcher in physical organic chemistry, Caserio's interests have focused on reaction mechanisms--the precise physical and chemical events that occur when one organic material is transformed into another material.

The London-born scientist received her bachelor's degree in chemistry from Chelsea College at the University of London in 1950, then went on to earn her master's and doctorate in organic chemistry from Bryn Mawr College. Caserio then spent eight years at Caltech, two as a postdoctoral research fellow and six as a senior research fellow, before joining the UC Irvine faculty.

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