

Marjorie C. Caserio named interim chancellor at UCSD

September 15, 1995

EDITORS: Photo available upon request

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MARJORIE C. CASERIO NAMED INTERIM CHANCELLOR AT THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, SAN DIEGO

Marjorie C. Caserio, former vice chancellor for academic affairs at the University of California, San Diego, today was selected by the UC Board of Regents to serve as interim chancellor of the UCSD campus.

Caserio will begin her new duties Oct. 1 and, if necessary serve until June 30, 1996. In the meantime, a search committee will begin the process of finding a replacement for UCSD Chancellor Richard C. Atkinson, who was named president of the nine-campus UC system by the Board of Regents Aug. 18. Atkinson's appointment is effective Oct. 1.

Caserio joined UCSD in 1990 from UC Irvine, where she was chair of the chemistry department. In May, 1994, she announced her intent to retire under the University's early retirement program but served until May, 1995, when Robert C. Dynes was named to replace her as vice chancellor for academic affairs. She had planned to return to teaching this year after five years of service in the administrative post.

"I am honored and delighted to serve as interim chancellor during this year of transition for the campus to new leadership," she noted. "The incredibly productive years of Dick Atkinson's administration have made UCSD a strong campus with a great future, and I am proud to be a part of the transition to that future."

John Wheeler, head of the Academic Senate, said Dr. Caserio's extensive knowledge of the campus makes her an ideal interim chancellor. He said her appointment is enthusiastically supported by the Council of the Academic Senate, which was consulted by Chancellor Atkinson.

During Caserio's tenure as vice chancellor she raised more than \$1 million for graduate student fellowships. She also headed efforts to establish an undergraduate major in connection with UCSD's Scripps Institution of Oceanography, a new major in women's studies, a department of ethnic studies and a new doctorate program in mathematics/science education.

Among her many honors, she was named recipient of the American Chemical Society's "Service Through Chemistry" award which honors persons who have made significant contributions in applying chemistry to solve problems of interest to Southern California.

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. She 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 undergraduate 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.

The London-born scientist received her bachelor's degree in chemistry from Chelsea College at the University of London in 1950. She went on to earn her master's and doctorate in organic chemistry from Bryn Mawr College, and then spent eight years at the California Institute of Technology before joining the UC Irvine faculty.

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