

UCSD Chancellor Richard C. Atkinson selected chairman of the Association of American Universities

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ATKINSON SELECTED CHAIRMAN OF AAU

Richard C. Atkinson, chancellor of the University of California, San Diego, has been selected chairman of the Association of American Universities (AAU).

Atkinson's selection came during the fall meeting of the AAU, composed of 58 leading North American universities, of which 56 are in the United States and two in Canada. The chairmanship carries a one-year term.

The AAU, founded in 1900, is designed to encourage consideration of major issues affecting academic research and graduate education.

Atkinson, who holds a Ph.D. in psychology from Indiana University, came to UCSD as chancellor on July 1, 1980. From 1975 to 1980, he served as director of the National Science Foundation, where he developed national and international science and technology policy. Among other things, he was a member of the United States-People's Republic of China Joint Commission on Science and Technology and the US-USSR Joint Commission. Prior to 1975, Atkinson was a member of the faculty at Stanford University for more than 20 years.

A former president of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, Atkinson also has been elected to membership in the National Academy of Sciences, American Philosophical Society, American Academy of Arts and Sciences, and Institute of Medicine.

He has been awarded honorary Doctor of Science degrees from 10 American universities, and holds honorary memberships in several foreign societies and academies.

Member institutions of the AAU are selected by invitation only, and require the assent of three-fourths of the current membership. Prospective members are assessed on the basis of the strength of their research and graduate-education programs.

The association maintains an office in Washington, D.C., which keeps member institutions informed of federal developments affecting higher education.

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