

UCSD has been elected to membership in the prestigious Association of American Universities (AAU)

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The University of California, San Diego has been elected to membership in the prestigious Association of American Universities (AAU), an organization of universities with pre-eminent programs of graduate and professional education and scholarly research.

UCSD and Carnegie-Mellon University in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, were granted membership May 24 during the Association's annual spring meeting in Washington, D.C. The two universities are the first institutions elected to membership since 1974 when UCLA and the University of Pittsburgh were admitted. The Association membership now consists of 50 American and 2 Canadian universities.

The UCSD faculty was informed of the honor by University of California President David Saxon during a meeting of the Academic Senate on the San Diego campus. Saxon called the election a measure of the greatness that has been achieved at UCSD since the campus was developed some 20 years ago.

"There is only one university established since World War II that has striven for greatness and achieved it," Saxon said, "and that is this one right here."

Dr. Richard C. Atkinson, UCSD chancellor who will represent the San Diego campus at AAU meetings, said the election, "recognizes UCSD's standing among this country's universities and it confirms San Diego's place as a center of academic excellence."

The Association of American Universities was founded in 1900 by the 14 American universities that then offered a Ph.D. degree. Half the members of the AAU are public institutions, half are private. UCSD is the third UC campus to be elected to membership; the Berkeley campus was among the original 14 members that established the organization in 1900 and UCLA was admitted in 1974.

The activities of the AAU focus on issues of research and advanced training, reflecting the common element of graduate education and scholarly research among the members. Its activities are designed to encourage consideration of issues of common concern and to enable members to communicate more effectively with the federal government.

The association is organized into an executive committee and six standing committees: arts and humanities, graduate education, health professions education, research libraries, research management, and science and research. Through its biannual membership meetings, the AAU also provides the opportunity for the leaders of AAU institutions to take part in formal and informal discussions with their colleagues.

The Association also coordinates its activities with other similar organizations such as the Association of Graduate Schools (AGS), the American Council on Education (ACE) and the National Association of State Universities and Land-Grant Colleges (NASULGC). It also maintains an active involvement in international education and is actively involved in several international associations.

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