

# ENDOWED CHAIRS: FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

## *What is an Endowed Chair?*

An endowed chair is among the most important gifts to higher education, a vital tool to ensure faculty excellence. Philanthropic endowments have been known since ancient times: The Greek philosopher Plato bequeathed valuable land to his disciples so they could maintain his Academy.

Today, an endowed chair honors and recognizes the distinction of superior faculty while providing invaluable financial support *above and beyond salary*, for use in research, teaching or service activities. It is a powerful recruitment tool; the more chairs a school has endowed, the more prestigious and attractive to potential faculty.

To date, UCSD has 110 endowed chairs. The current cost is \$500,000 plus a one-time 4% gift fee.

## *How is it established?*

An endowment is established with a sizeable gift to an academic area designated by the donor. This gift is invested in an interest-bearing fund in which the principal remains intact while the interest provides a perpetual source of annual income. The current pay out for a chair is 4.5 to 5%.

This is then used to attract and support the academic and research efforts of an exceptional faculty member – a distinguished leader in his/her field – appointed to this position. The recipient typically holds the chair until leaving his/her position at the university, at which time the honor is bestowed upon a new scholar.

Establishment and naming of an endowed chair is contingent upon funding, Division and Departmental approval as well as approval from the UCSD Academic Senate and the UC Office of the President.

## *Once a chair is established, do donors receive feedback?*

Each chair holder submits annual narratives of the past year's activities and use of endowment funds to the department chair or research head; this is forwarded to the vice chancellor for review. A copy of the narrative is used in preparing an annual report to donors.

Additional interaction between donor and chair holder may take the form of events held by the department, including invitations to lectures given or conferences organized by the holder of the chair, invitations to receptions, invitations to general or private meetings with the holder of the chair and might include publicity and/or a public announcement.

***What is The Campaign for UCSD?***

UCSD is currently engaged in the most ambitious fund-raising campaign in the institution's history, with a goal of raising \$1 billion by June 30, 2007.

***How does the endowment of chairs fit within the Campaign?***

The Campaign has very specific objectives; chief among them is to "Support Outstanding Faculty" by increasing essential funding for endowed chairs, visiting professorships and recruitment and retention packages.

Great schools require great faculty, which today requires great donors. UCSD competes with other universities for stellar faculty members. An endowed chair gives us a prestigious and practical tool for recruiting and retaining these individuals.