



Vice Provost for Academic Personnel
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January 5, 2021

To: Professor Jason Stajich
Chair of the Academic Senate
Professor of Microbiology and Plant Pathology

From: Thomas Smith
Interim Provost and Executive Vice Chancellor

Daniel R. Jeske
Vice Provost for Academic Personnel
Professor of Statistics

Via: Cherysa Cortez, UCR Academic Senate

Dear Jason,

We write to request Senate review and approval for the use of “Professor of Practice in (e.g., Public Policy, Education, Engineering)” as working title for “Adjunct Professor.” APM-280 describes the rules and guidelines for use of the Adjunct Professor title, and as such, would apply to the proposed working title of Professor of Practice. Within the UC system, UCB has already established a local policy for Professor of Practice as a working title for Adjunct Professor and UCSD has already established a local policy for Professor of Practice as an academic series.

The motivation for us proposing the working title of Professor of Practice at UCR is that, compared to the title of Adjunct Professor, we feel it lends more distinction to the distinguished leaders and practitioners who are recruited to be Adjunct Professors. Very often Adjunct Professor recruits are leaders in their field who do not have traditional academic backgrounds and therefore would not meet the criteria for appointment in existing academic series such as Ladder-Rank, In Residence, Clinical X, and Health Sciences Clinical. On the other hand, they frequently have backgrounds that are rich in tangible impact on practice, and are deep in connections to real-life problems.

Professor of Practice is a title that more transparently conveys experience that can provide students with a deep understanding of the practical application of a particular field of study, and with opportunities to interact with and to benefit from the presence of experienced professionals who have distinguished professional accomplishments. It is a title that suggests an important collaborative role in inter-disciplinary research and scholarly activities, a vision for developing innovative new courses, and a capability to serve as a liaison between the University and industry or government.

Our proposal to adopt the working title of Professor of Practice for the Adjunct Professor Series is entirely cosmetic, but is important in providing a more visible academic identity to our colleagues in the Adjunct Professor Series. Thank you in advance for considering this request and we look forward to your response.