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Dear colleagues,

With great sadness for us, but real excitement for Deb, I am writing to share the news that Dr. Deborah Motton has accepted the position of Director of Research Policy Analysis and Coordination at the Office of the UC President, reporting to VP Theresa Maldonado. For us, this is a huge loss. Deb was hired by UC Merced's first Vice Chancellor for Research, Keith Alley, and she provided critical support and advice to Keith, Sam Traina, and myself. She has taken on increasingly critical positions within UC Merced's Office of Research and Economic Development over the past 15 years, running many of our major programs and serving as a trusted colleague and close collaborator for the Vice Chancellor and other senior staff.

Deb currently serves as Associate Vice Chancellor for Research and Economic Development, Director of Research Compliance, and Acting Privacy Official for the campus. She oversaw the full redesign of the Sponsored Projects office and led development of a wide range of policies, programs, and processes for all aspects of research integrity and compliance, including animal research services. Deb has superb research and leadership skills and has been called on by others on campus, beyond ORED, to serve on numerous campus-wide committees. She is the liaison with UCOP in many areas and is often tapped to serve on systemwide committees. She is also active in Health and Human Services' Office for Human Research Protections, the National Council of University Research Administrators, and the Federal Demonstration Project.

It is no surprise, then, that Deborah's expertise has been noticed by our colleagues at UCOP, who have prevailed on her to join them. This is a great opportunity for Deb to expand her knowledge into other sectors of the research enterprise and to work with terrific colleagues across the system. In her new position, Debbie will lead the University of California in policy development, interpretation, and guidance in all areas of research, intellectual property, and commercialization. She will coordinate these efforts with the campuses, the UC-affiliated national labs, and the Agriculture and Natural Resources office. And, Debbie will serve as the voice in policy leadership on behalf of UC at the national and state levels.

Luckily for us, Deb won't be far away and she promises to take our phone calls! And, the position will not start until April 1, although Deb intends to take some well-deserved vacation for much of March. Please join me in congratulating Dr. Deborah Motton on this wonderful opportunity. And don't mind me if I'm walking around with a sad face for a little while...

Here's to you, Deb! Thank you again for your incredible service to UC Merced. We will miss you!

Warm regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Marjorie S. Zatz". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Marjorie S. Zatz

Interim Vice Chancellor for Research & Economic Development
Professor of Sociology