November 15, 2010

TO: Campus Community

FROM: Michael Witherell, Vice Chancellor for Research

RE: Marine Science Institute Director

I am extremely pleased to announce the appointment of Mark Brzezinski, UCSB Professor of Ecology, Evolution, and Marine Biology, as Director of the Marine Science Institute (MSI), effective November 1, 2010. Mark has served as Interim Director of MSI since January 1, 2010.

The Marine Science Institute is a national asset and one of the largest and oldest research institutes at UCSB. MSI administers and supports research projects involving faculty, professional researchers, technical staff, graduate students, and undergraduate students from 14 disciplines. Its activity includes research on oceans, marine coastal environments, and watersheds, and includes basic and applied science, policy, education, and outreach. The Institute manages a portfolio of over $104 million and its researchers receive approximately $19 million in new awards annually.

Dr. Brzezinski received Bachelor of Science degrees in Biology and in Marine Science in 1979 from the Southampton College of Long Island University and a Ph.D. in Biological Oceanography from Oregon State University in 1987. Dr. Brzezinski has been a Professor at UCSB since 1989, carrying out research in biological oceanography.

Dr. Brzezinski is an internationally recognized marine scientist and a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Sciences and the American Geophysical Union. He served as Deputy Director of MSI from 2000 to 2009 and as Acting Director frequently over that period. He also served as Chair of the Interdepartmental Graduate Program in Marine Sciences from 2004 to 2009. The National Research Council recently ranked this program as one of the top few programs in the country in its field.

Dr. Brzezinski has been a leader in marine science at UCSB for the past decade, and is superbly qualified for his new position. We look forward to more great research coming from the Marine Science Institute.

I would like to thank the members of the search committee and its Chair, David Siegel, for their efforts in this search. I would also like to thank the MSI Advisory Committee and the entire MSI community for their contributions to excellent marine science at UCSB.