Cal Poly Names Alison Cone Athletics Director

SAN LUIS OBISPO – Cal Poly President Warren J. Baker announced today that the university has named Alison E. Cone as athletics director. Cone, with Cal Poly since 1994, has been serving as Cal Poly’s interim athletics director since February 2004.

“I’m delighted that Alison is going to lead Cal Poly’s athletics program,” said Baker. “She has tremendous experience and her first-rate leadership skills will help us move our athletics programs forward in the 21st century. She has represented the Big West conference at the NCAA extraordinarily well; she has a proven track record and a strong commitment to the success and well being of our student athletes – in the classroom as well as on and off the field. We see the fruits of her leadership and hard work, among other ways, in the continued positive academic records of our fine female and male scholar-athletes.”

Cone was selected from a field of more than 70 applicants in a nation-wide search. She succeeds John McCutcheon, who left in March 2004 to become director of athletics at the University of Massachusetts.

With the appointment, effective Feb. 1, Cone becomes one of 19 female athletic directors at the NCAA Division I level, which includes over 300 colleges and universities. She joins 12 other female AD’s heading athletic departments with football programs (I-A and I-AA). At Cal Poly, she will direct all university intercollegiate athletic programs, which involve more than 500 student athletes and 20 Division I teams.

“I’m excited about the prospect of continuing to work with the talented coaches and staff we have in the department,” Cone said in accepting the appointment. “I’m looking forward to providing outstanding opportunities for our student athletes, including the opportunity for them to compete at the highest level.”

Cone, 51, served as Cal Poly’s senior associate athletics director for more than 11 years. She holds a bachelor’s degree in physical education from Washington State University and a master’s degree in education from Cal State Dominguez Hills.
A native of Ellensburg, Wa., she served as director of athletic academic services at WSU before coming to Cal Poly. Prior to that, she served as athletic academic coordinator at Cal State Fullerton. She has been coaching and teaching since 1975.

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*Editor’s Note: to receive a photo of Cone via e-mail, contact Brian Thurmond in the Athletics Media Relations Office at (805) 756-2410.*