

May 15, 2013
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Cal Poly Announces New Duties for Two Administrators

Agriculture Dean Wehner to Lead Strategic Initiatives; Thulin Named Interim Dean

SAN LUIS OBISPO — Dave Wehner, dean of Cal Poly’s College of Agriculture, Food and Environmental Sciences (CAFES) since 2002, will become the university’s interim vice president for strategic initiatives, the university announced Wednesday.

Andrew Thulin, currently head of Cal Poly’s Animal Sciences Department, will serve as interim CAFES dean. A national search for a permanent successor as dean will be held near the end of these interim appointments, which are expected to last for approximately 12 to 18 months. The appointments are effective July 1.

“Thanks to Cal Poly’s past success, we have significant new opportunities to partner with donors and others in the private sector on some potentially key initiatives,” Cal Poly President Jeffrey D. Armstrong said. “We need to make good decisions about what fits within our mission, what is fundable, and what we can successfully implement.

“Right now we have several opportunities before us that require immediate focus. Dave’s experience in successfully forging relationships with the private sector that have strengthened our Learn by Doing programs makes him the right person to explore these opportunities,” Armstrong said. “Also, at a time when we are conducting a number of searches for key positions, we simply need additional senior leadership during this period. Dave and Andy both bring considerable experience and skill that will help us through this transitional period.”

Under Wehner’s leadership, the College of Agriculture, Food and Environmental Sciences has led all of Cal Poly’s colleges in the total amount of money raised over the past few years, enabling it to significantly expand and strengthen its curriculum.

Among his many successful efforts on behalf of students, faculty and staff, Wehner developed the idea of the Agriculture Technology Center and was instrumental in securing an \$8 million lead gift that will enable the center to become a reality over the next few years. Wehner was also closely involved in development of the Leprino Foods Company partnership that is enabling Cal Poly to expand its dairy science program.

Thulin, a 1977 Animal Science graduate from Cal Poly, has enjoyed a career in the private sector and higher education. His experience includes a three-way appointment in extension, research and teaching at Michigan State University as well as working for seven years as manager of worldwide technology deployment for Cargill, Inc., before he returned to the Cal Poly faculty in 1998. Thulin earned his master’s and doctorate degrees in nutrition at Kansas State University.

Thulin has had substantial success in developing partnerships with industry and individual donors to garner private support for Cal Poly, including efforts to help raise more than \$5.5 million in private money needed for the new Meat Processing Center.

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