

**APPENDIX 7B - Academic Advisory Committee:  
Purpose & Operation**

**Revised – 1 October 2014**

**Purpose:** The ASI Academic Advisory Committee reviews and makes recommendations about the significance and scientific merit of ASI strategies, programs and projects. This group also assists ASI in identifying current and emerging research, outreach and teaching priorities and partners for ASI programs. The Academic Advisory Committee is distinct from, and complementary to, the ASI External Advisory Board.

**Reporting:** Meets with and provides advice directly to ASI Director.

**Key Responsibilities:**

- Provide advice and input in development of ASI workplans and periodic strategic plans.
- Review and make recommendations on significance and merit of ASI strategies, programs and projects.
- Assist ASI in identifying and assessing emerging research, outreach and teaching opportunities, and assessing the suitability and feasibility of pursuing various emerging opportunities and prioritizing among them.
- Assist ASI in developing request for proposal guidelines and criteria, including participating in peer review and other evaluation processes.
- Assist ASI in assessment of program effectiveness in meeting identified goals and needs.
- Identify and encourage opportunities for individual and institutional collaboration across California for ASI programs and units.
- Assist ASI in framing and coordinating its activities within broader UC efforts and other initiatives in California, seeking complementarities, synergies, and opportunities to fill key gaps.

**Composition & Membership:** Up to 18 regular members selected to ensure representation of a wide range of interests and units, including different agriculture and natural resource systems, academic specialties, campuses and relevant colleges, schools, and statewide programs as well as diversity in terms of California demographics and geography. Membership should include appropriate range of campus-based, statewide and other academics and could include representatives from other public and private colleges and universities. In addition to regular members, *ex officio* members will include: Director of the Student Farm at UC Davis, Director of the Russell Ranch Sustainable Agriculture Facility, and the SAREP Deputy Director. Members are appointed by the ASI director based on recommendations from ASI staff and affiliated faculty. Members are appointed to serve staggered terms (typically of two-three years) and are expected to attend each meeting. Absence from three consecutive meetings will be interpreted as resignation from the board, unless discussed with ASI Director. Representation will be reviewed and adjusted at regular intervals to allow for participation of new constituencies as new issues and priorities arise.

**Operation:** Meets 1-2 times annually; periodically meets jointly with ASI Internal Steering Committee. Chair appointed by ASI Director. Staff support to the committee will be designated as needed by the ASI director from among ASI staff.