1. Summary

This announcement invites Letters of Intent (LoI) from UC campuses interested in participating in the second wave of course development that is being conducted as part of the UC online project.

Wave I, begun in October 2010, focused on assessing the effectiveness of online instruction and was driven by the subject matter faculty proposed.

Wave II focuses on actual need for high demand, lower-division classes and key major gateway courses. It seeks proposals from departments and ladder faculty that:

(a) align with these institutional priorities,
(b) provide dynamic, academically rigorous courses that capitalize on the unique benefits offered by online instruction, and
(c) can be offered to non-UC students on a revenue-generating basis that benefits faculty and departments that participate in the project.

Faculty selected in Wave II will work as part of the project team developing up to 20 fully-online lower-division courses that will be delivered to UC and non-UC students from a common learning environment. It is anticipated that courses will become available for instruction during the 2012-2013 academic year, and will be offered annually to both UC and non-UC students on a repeatable and predictable basis. The exclusive focus of Wave II is on high-enrollment, major gateway courses and lower-division breadth or elective courses.

LoI will be prepared using the template provided in Appendix A and submitted to uconline@ucop.edu by 12:00 P.M. (Pacific Time) on January 16, 2012.

LoI will be reviewed by a selection committee, which will recommend to the Vice Provost, Academic Planning a shortlist of proposals for further development. Shortlisted faculty will work with project instructional designers to create detailed course development plans and budgets, and final funding decisions will be made by the Vice Provost based upon recommendations from project staff and advice from representatives of the Academic Senate. Faculty whose LoI are shortlisted will receive an honoraria of up to $1000 per LoI to create their course roadmaps and budgets.

Faculty whose course proposals are selected to participate in Wave II will be eligible for funding intended to support their work on course design and development. Award size is expected to vary but will support a course release, summer ninth, or contribution towards support of a graduate student research assistant.

UCOE will also support technology development and production needs to develop and deliver the course effectively online. All anticipated expenditures will be budgeted in consultation with project staff.
More information about the online project is available in Appendix B, including information about the Common Learning Environment (CoLE) that will be used.

2. Applicant Eligibility

LoI may be submitted by ladder faculty or academic units. They must name UC Senate faculty as principal investigator (PI) and may include participation from others, inside or outside UC.

LoI must include a letter of support from the campus Provost. Because the project requires that courses be made available routinely on a revenue-generating basis to non-UC students, support should also be sought from others on campus (e.g. department chairs or deans) who need to be involved in discussions about instructor workload and revenue allocation.

3. Review and Selection Criteria

In making a final selection about which courses to develop, the following will be considered:

- whether the course is a fully online lower-division gateway or GE course with a reasonable likelihood of building a large enrollment of non-UC students who may seek to enroll in such courses, e.g., for the purposes of academic preparation or degree completion;
- whether the course will be available on a predictable and repeatable basis, preferably at least twice a year; and
- whether the course meets a demonstrable need of UC students while being of interest to non-UC students.

Consideration will also be given to:

- applicant’s experience as an innovative and successful teacher;
- applicant’s willingness to work as part of a project team including course designers and education technology specialists;
- UCOE’s total cost of course development (migration and updating in the case of existing online courses); and
- extent to which the course complements those in the first wave (a complete list is available in Appendix C).

LoI proposing to update and migrate existing courses that are wholly or largely online are encouraged.

Please consult the Project website http://onlineeducation.universityofcalifornia.edu for more information. General inquiries can also be directed to uconline@ucop.edu.