



Ronald S. Cortez

Chief Financial Officer

Vice Chancellor, Division of Finance and Administration

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Ronald Cortez joined UCI in February 2017 as vice chancellor of Administrative & Business Services, and in February of 2018 he became chief financial officer and vice chancellor for the Division of Finance and Administration. He manages a large, \$3.5 billion operating budget and a \$3 billion capital expenditure budget, ensuring responsible allocation of public and private financial resources to meet objectives including the health enterprise (health sciences and medical center). Ron works closely with

and provides strategic oversight to the CFO of Health Affairs to ensure overall financial strength of the university.

Ron has played a critical role in the recent development of the campus, overseeing the planning, funding, and development of the [Integrated Science and Engineering Building](#), the [Samueli College of Health Sciences](#) and [Sue & Bill Gross School of Nursing & Health Sciences Hall](#), and four residence halls providing over 4,000 additional beds to the campus, utilizing a public/private partnership framework. In addition, Ron led the land use planning and approval effort for the new \$1.2 billion [UCI Medical Center – Irvine](#).

Ron's influence has also been felt across the campus on several other major projects during his tenure, such as providing financial leadership to guide the campus through the pandemic, which allowed the campus to absorb all financial impacts while continuing to achieve its strategic objectives; and, implementation of UCPATH, the UC system's single payroll, benefits, human resources and academic personnel solution and the largest administrative system implementation in UC's history. Ron also significantly improved customer service and is most proud of his Division of Finance and Administration team at UC Irvine.

Ron brings more than three decades of public sector administrative and financial experience. He previously served as vice president of Administration & Finance and chief financial officer for San Francisco State University, associate vice chancellor for Administrative Services at the University of California, Santa Barbara, and worked for the county of Santa Barbara for fourteen years, three of which he served as the deputy county executive officer. His work has focused on the management of multi-million dollar budgets; large, complex government information systems, developing and implementing capital projects, including overseeing the construction of over twelve public building projects. He also oversaw the creation and implementation of a new financial system, eProcurement, timekeeping, risk management, liability systems, and sustainability projects. He served eight years as an Officer/Navigator in the United States Air Force.

Ron received the OCBJ CFO of the Year Award in the not-for-profit category in 2020 and was selected to be the 2017 commencement speaker for the Bishop Diego High School. He has served as a Board of Trustee member for Bishop Garcia Diego High School, and in 2016, was awarded the Public Service Award from the Public Administration Faculty for his contribution to the San Francisco community. He served as a mentor for the Western Association of College and Business Officers (WACUBO) and was a member of NACUBO's (National Association of College and University Business Officers) Research Universities Council. Ron was appointed by UC President Janet Napolitano to serve on UCOP's Presidential Task Force on Universitywide Policing to examine the investigative practices, use of force-related policies and training of the UC police departments in an effort to strengthen the departments' practices and their relationships and interactions with the community. He is the chair of UC Retirement System (UCRS) Advisory Board which aims to develop ideas or new approaches to the provisions of UCRS benefits which holds assets of \$144 billion. Ron also sits on the board of directors for Fiat Lux Risk and Insurance Company, UC's captive insurance company with assets totaling \$1.2 billion, which efficiently finances risks and provides the infrastructure necessary to support insurance programs beneficial to the university's students, faculty, staff, and alumni.

A first-generation college graduate, Ron earned a Juris Doctor (J.D.) at the Santa Barbara College of Law and received a master's degree in organizational management and public administration at Fielding Graduate University and Northern Michigan University, respectively. He also holds a bachelor's degree in finance from San Jose State University.