

December 20, 2005

Dear Colleagues:

The purpose of this e-mail is to clarify the status of the Terroir 2006 conference and more specifically, the role of Dr. Ken Verosub, who has been the co-organizer of this event since its inception.

First I wish to state that it is our goal that the conference goes forward. However, significant developments over the last week have greatly complicated matters. Dr. Verosub has requested that he receive significant personal compensation for time he has devoted to conference planning. The position of the College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences (CA&ES) is that, if one individual is paid for their time, then ALL individuals who have spent time on the conference should also be compensated in an equitable manner. Given that the total number of individuals involved in organizing Terroir 2006 (including a steering committee of 12 faculty and administrators) approaches 20, such compensation would be impossible to support by the projected conference budget.

Dr. Verosub has made it very clear that if he is not compensated, he no longer wants to be involved in the conference. I was very saddened by this, as Dr. Verosub has done a great deal of work on the conference and I have enjoyed working with him. We have repeatedly encouraged Dr. Verosub to remain engaged in conference planning and presentation, but he has declined unless his terms are met.

To ensure that Terroir 2006 goes forward with the high level of success characterized by other events hosted by the Robert Mondavi Institute for Wine and Food Science, I am grateful that the Dean of CA&ES has devoted significant additional staff support to this event, including staff for web support. All information related to the conference is now located at the following URL:

<http://terroir.ucdavis.edu/>

I appreciate your continued support of Terroir 2006 and look forward to seeing you on campus in March. Please don't hesitate to contact me directly with further questions or concerns.

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