UC Irvine Business School to launch new part-time hybrid online and in-classroom MBA section beginning fall 2016

Irvine, CA – April 13, 2016 – Beginning fall 2016, The Paul Merage School of Business will roll out a new offering in its Fully Employed MBA (FEMBA) program: Hybrid FEMBA. The Hybrid FEMBA option will be delivered in a unique learning environment, combining online learning with on-campus experiences. The Hybrid FEMBA will be added to the current on-campus FEMBA program, providing incoming students the ability to choose the option they prefer upon admission.

“As MBA education continues to evolve, the Merage School remains committed to curricular innovation and to delivering an outstanding learning experience,” said Gerardo Okhuysen, professor and associate dean, Masters Programs of The Paul Merage School of Business. “Combining online learning through the Hybrid FEMBA option, with four on-campus Saturdays per quarter, delivers a completely immersive experience focused on lively interaction and valuable classroom discourse.”

The Hybrid FEMBA will maintain the same rigorous and relevant curriculum and high admission standards as the on-campus FEMBA sections. “We are expanding our offerings to
enhance the delivery of our MBA education. Students who are admitted will meet the same high standards of admission as all of our MBA programs,” added Okhuysen. “This new option builds upon the recent curricular changes that we made to both the FEMBA and Full-Time MBA programs, which eliminated some of the core requirements allowing students more opportunity to explore electives. These changes give FEMBA students the flexibility to customize their MBA paths and broaden their career exploration.”

The Hybrid FEMBA option allows students to engage with online lecture content on their own schedule. In-class experiences will focus on discussion, project presentations, peer-to-peer learning, and dynamic interaction with faculty. In the coming school year, continuing FEMBA students also will be able to take advantage of new Hybrid FEMBA electives, which will provide access to more classes offered in this format.

“The flexibility of this program reflects our focus on redefining business education and increasing the accessibility of our programs to students regionally, nationally and internationally,” said Merage School Dean Eric Spangenberg. “The Hybrid FEMBA is a prime example of our intentional effort to provide innovative programs and delivery methods that effectively educate globally competitive business leaders.”

The Hybrid FEMBA instructional design team is led by Assistant Dean and CIO John Clarke, and the program integrates leading technology platforms, including Canvas, YellowDig, Zaption and others, to create an immersive and continuous learning environment.

The Merage School FEMBA program is a part-time MBA program, ideal for early- to mid-career professionals and managers seeking to advance or redirect their careers or achieve entrepreneurial goals. The curriculum consists of 21 courses and offers more than 50 specialized electives in a variety of disciplines. Depending on the students’ preference, the degree may be completed in 24 to 33 months. For application deadlines and to learn more about the MBA programs offered through the Merage School, visit: merage.uci.edu/go/femba.
About The Paul Merage School of Business at UC Irvine

The Paul Merage School of Business at UC Irvine offers four dynamic MBA programs – plus PhD, specialty masters and undergraduate business degrees – that graduate world-ready business leaders with the exceptional ability to help grow their organizations through strategic innovation, analytical decision-making, information technology and collaborative execution. While the Merage School is relatively young, it has quickly grown to consistently rank among the top five percent of all business programs worldwide through exceptional student recruitment, world-class faculty, a strong alumni network and close relationships with both individual business executives and global corporations. Additional information is available at merage.uci.edu.

###