

Committee on Research (COR)  
Minutes of Meeting  
September 7, 2016  
KL 362

Pursuant to call, the Committee on Research met at 11:06 AM on September 7, 2016 in Room 362 of the Kolligian Library, Chair David Noelle presiding.

I. Chair's Report

Chair Noelle welcomed members and made introductions. He announced that, due to difficulties with finding members for COR, current members are requested to submit nominations, and COC will continue to work on finding additional members. Two current members are leaving for sabbatical in the Spring, and one member, who is currently on sabbatical, will return to COR in the Spring.

Michael Scheibner will represent COR at the [LASC](#) committee, but COR still needs a Vice Chair and representation on [PROC](#). Chair Noelle will be attending meetings of [UCORP](#). Due to scheduling issues, Chair Noelle will not be able to attend meetings of [DivCo](#) in the Fall. Member Saha will represent COR at these DivCo meetings.

Discussing the AY 15-16 COR Annual Report, Chair Noelle highlighted issues pertinent for this year:

- a. Structure of the faculty research grants program. \$175,000 will be available this year.
- b. Startup funds and their expiration. Chair Noelle has spoken with FWF Chair. COR will likely take the lead in addressing this issue, since it directly affects the availability of funds for faculty to perform research and handle contingencies.
- c. The current status of indirect cost return issues. Chair will work with COR members on this issue.
- d. Monitoring decision-making processes for the [2020 Project](#), specifically when related to research. VC-ORED Traina added that specialized research facilities would be a subject for COR to discuss.

Regarding the August 23 Division Council meeting, though most of the committees had not yet had their first meeting, Chair Noelle provided an overview of what the Division planned for this year:

- UGC: improvements to the CRF process, working on a campus-wide undergraduate honors program, creation of institutions for proactively dealing with first-year students isolation and stress, and the possible introduction of a "dead week" or "dead day" before the week of final examinations.
- CAPRA: improvements to budget transparency, and piggybacking on workforce planning for improvement to the student/faculty ratio, which is above some other UC campuses at this time.
- D&E: Faculty Equity Advisor (FEA) program implementation, review of the Endowed Chair selection process, review of \$2 million in funds for diversity programs across campus.
- FWF: expiration of startup funds, review of childcare issues and afterschool programs.
- COC: ongoing trouble with low nominations for committees, looking for nominees for two Chancellor Search Committees.
- GC: graduate program reviews, allocation of funds to Graduate Groups, for the first time, to support their programs (intent is for travel, seminars, etc.), reviewing 2020 Project decisions.
- CRE: working on a document with recommendations for bylaws.
- CAP: indicated a need to improve committee diversity, issue of delegating to Deans the ability to make appointments at the level of Assistant Professor Step II and Step III.
- DivCo: focus on monitoring 2020, wants to improve budget transparency, wants to improve CAPRA participation in strategic academic hiring process.

A member asked about the review of Deans. The results of the reviews are confidential, and Senate input in the reviews is unclear, with VC-ORED Traina not aware if this happens at other UCs.

- II. Consent Calendar
- a. The September 7, 2016 meeting agenda was approved as presented.
- III. AY 2016-2017 High Priority Issues
- a. The Chair requested that members discuss any additional issues that may have stood out from last year, or are otherwise of interest for this year.
    - i. Discretionary money use. A model has been approved by the Chancellor, leaving questions of when it would be implemented. It is still possible to make revisions.
    - ii. Policies to set up Core Facilities. An attachment included in the agenda for this meeting shows the policy structure, but does not address funding these facilities. Issue of prioritization not yet addressed.
    - iii. [Research Development Services](#) (RDS) support issues. Last year, COR identified a gap between the grant functions supported centrally from RDS and what would be supported by the schools. This issue remains in flux due to workforce planning. COR stated their willingness to provide faculty input to improve communication and planning between the schools and RDS. VC-ORED Traina recommends addressing this quickly.
    - iv. Policies for review and approval in relation to staffing. There is a clear discrepancy between policies arising from the Provost and from the Senate. A member asked about the role played by PROC in these reviews, but there was no available information on this matter.
- IV. [Sierra Nevada Research Institute](#) (SNRI) ORU Review Committee
- a. This is the first ORU review for UC Merced. COR will need to review the self-study already published by SNRI, and the review committee will need to be populated with one representative from each school, with an additional non-UC Merced representative. VC-ORED Traina is working on identifying this outside person.
- ACTION: Chair will contact COC to request additional members for the review team, while COR members will look for volunteers internally within their own schools. Names will be sent for approval/exclusion. Chair will work with VC-ORED Traina on how inclusions will be handled. VC-ORED Traina will provide a copy of the self-study for COR review.
- V. Campus Review Items
- a. COR was asked to review and comment on a policy proposal for “Research Data Storage”, and a policy proposal for “Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) and Model Aircrafts”.
- ACTION: The members discussed both proposals, and after unanimous vote, moved to forward comments to the Senate Chair.
- VI. Other Business
- a. Request to comment on the discontinuation of the “Services Science” minor – COR was grateful to opine but did not have any comments, as this program is not relevant to research.
  - b. VC-ORED Traina announced that the [Blum Center](#) would be undergoing a proposed “reboot”, with an expected start date of October 1<sup>st</sup>. Research/COR will be involved at some point in the future.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:02 PM.

Attest:

David Noelle, COR Chair