

**COMMITTEE ON RESEARCH (COR)****Wednesday, May 7, 2014****9:30 – 11:00 am****KL 324****Documents found at [UCMCROPS/COR1314/Resources](#)****AGENDA**

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- I. Indirect Cost Return – VC Michael Reese & VC Dan Feitelberg 9:30 – 10:00 Pg.1-4**  
Prior to this meeting, COR drafted a document requesting clarification on the status of Merced’s rate and allocation model. Today’s discussion will consist of updates from Vice Chancellors Reese and Feitelberg.
- II. Chair’s Report – Ruth Mostern**  
A. Update from May 1 Meeting of the Division
- III. Consent Calendar**  
A. Approval of the agenda  
B. Approval of the April 23 meeting minutes **Pg.5-8**
- IV. Campus Review Items**  
A. [Proposed Community Research & Service Minor](#) (SSHA)  
Documents can be viewed at [UCMCROPS/COR1314/Resources/Review Items – Campus](#).  
**Action requested:** COR to review any research implications of the proposed minor by May 7.
- B. Diversity Hires **Pg.9**  
FWDAF committee has proposed allocating the limited number of new faculty FTEs next year based on diversity considerations.  
**Action requested:** COR to review FWDAF’s memo and send comments by May 15.

**V. Systemwide Review Item****A. [Proposed Revised UC Policy on Supplement to Military Pay](#)**

Changes proposed a four-year renewal on current supplemental benefits to UC employees on active military duty. *Proposed policy can be viewed at UCMCROPS/COR1314/Resources/Review Items – Systemwide.*

**Action requested:** COR to review the proposed revisions and send comments by May 19.

**VI. AY 13-14 Accomplishments and AY 14-15 Planning**

Discussion: COR members to discuss this year's committee accomplishments and suggest issues for next year's committee.

Major accomplishments include the drafting of the comprehensive set of policies concerning the establishment and review of research units, revising the criteria for the annual Senate faculty grants, proposing an indirect cost return model, and establishing a campus research safety committee. Future issues may include a further revising of the Senate faculty grants program to involve the School Executive Committees and a dividing of the pot of money by School.

# UC Merced IDC Policy

(For COR internal discussion, 4/26/2014)

COR was charged to review and recommend UC Merced IDC (Indirect Cost) return policy to better align the purpose of the IDC and the university research missions. The members of COR wish to have a better understanding of past and present IDC distribution practice/policy in the past several years, and by referring to other sister UC campuses, COR will try to make recommendation on new UC Merced IDC Policy.

## 1. Definition and Rationale of IDC [1]

A restaurant provides an illustrative example of the difference between direct and indirect costs: restaurants establish their prices to customers by first calculating their direct costs for producing or purchasing the food they serve. Next they calculate their indirect costs such as rent, utilities and accounting services – and then they charge their customers a mark-up on direct costs to cover these indirect costs. If businesses did not add the mark-up into the price of their products, they would not make enough to pay the rent, utility bills, or their accountant's wages, and would go out of business.

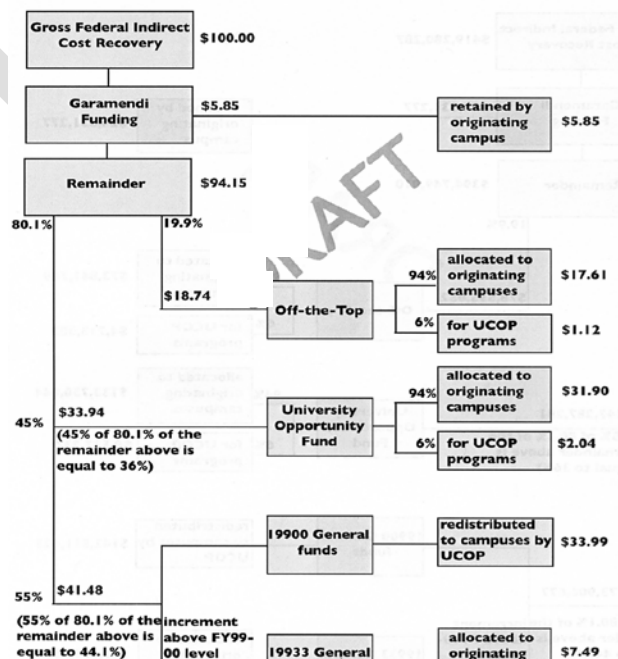
A research university must operate on similar basic principles. The university must charge a mark-up on direct research costs in order to pay for indirect research costs. This mark up is called the indirect or facilities and administration (F&A) cost rate. Otherwise the institution could not afford to support the research of its faculty.

See [1] for more details.

## 2. Past and Current IDC Spending at UC Merced

IDC rate for UC Merced is 55% for on-campus research (26% off-campus) (Berkeley 56.5%, Davis 55.5%, FY14-15; Stanford 60.5%, Harvard 69%, MIT 56%, Yale 66.5% FY13-14).

Refer to the figure below for UC system (from [2], valid for FY02. **Need a newer version**):



**Question: What is the distribution chart for UC Merced over past several years?**

### **3. Return Policy at UC Berkeley**

Per Appendix 1,

- IDC return to Dean's and Dept. Offices:  $14.5\%/52\% = 28\%$  IDC
- IDC return to Faculty:  $3.6\%/52\% = 7\%$  IDC
- IDC return to University: 65% IDC

**Question: What is the distribution method used at the campus level for UC Merced over past several years?**

### **4. Future IDC Policy at UC Merced – the need of transparency and faculty understanding**

The attached PDF file [1] is a rich source for reference to understand the IDC distribution in UC system and at the university campus level.

Appendix:

**Table 1. Berkeley Sponsored Research Rate Components**

<i>July 1, 2003 through June 30, 2006</i>	<i>% of Direct Costs</i>	
	<b>On-campus</b>	<b>Off-campus</b>
<b><u>Facilities</u></b>		
Building Depreciation	6.7	
Building Interest	2.6	
Equipment	4.0	
Operation & Maintenance	11.2	
Libraries	1.5	
Facilities Total	26.0	
<b><u>Administration</u></b>		
General Administration	5.3	5.3
Departmental Administration	18.1	18.1
Deans' & Department Offices	14.5	14.5
Faculty Administrative Allowance	3.6	3.6
Sponsored Projects Administration	2.6	2.6
Administration Total	26.0	26.0
<b>Total Rate</b>	<b>52.0</b>	<b>26.0</b>

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References:

[1]. [Indirect Costs at Berkeley: A Primer](#)

[http://vcresearch.berkeley.edu/sites/default/files/wysiwyg/filemanager/Staff\\_HR/IDCPrimer1-19-04.pdf](http://vcresearch.berkeley.edu/sites/default/files/wysiwyg/filemanager/Staff_HR/IDCPrimer1-19-04.pdf)

[2]. Sam Traina. An Introduction to Facilities & Administrative Costs or Indirect Costs (F&A or ICR).

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**Committee on Research (COR)**  
**Minutes of Meeting**  
**April 23, 2014**

Pursuant to call, the Committee on Research met at 10:00 am on April 23, 2014, in Room 362 of the Kolligian Library, Chair Ruth Mostern presiding.

I. Chair's Report

Chair Mostern updated the committee on the following:

--UCORP. Main topics of discussion at recent UCORP meetings concerned the Portfolio Review Group (PRG) reports, specifically, the Multicampus Research Programs and Initiative (MRPI). UCORP believes it received a reasonable amount of data from the PRG and is supportive of PRG's overall findings and of MRPI.

--UCOLASC. The main topic of discussion was the open access policy, specifically, details about copyright. There is ambiguity surrounding copyrights for graduate students working as GSRs who publish work related to their GSR tenure, not dissertations. The California Digital Library and the UC General Counsel are aware of these complexities. There was also discussion at UCOLASC of the open access journal model that UC press is attempting to launch. The goal is to determine a financially viable model for a journal that does not over charge authors but still allows a journal to sustain itself and pay peer reviewers. While this project is still nascent, COR needs to be aware of it and is a further indication of the importance of having a standing Senate committee on Library and Scholarly Communications.

II. Consent Calendar

**ACTION:** Today's agenda and the April 9 meeting minutes were approved as presented.

III. AY 14-15 Senate Faculty Grants Criteria

COR members acknowledged that the main problem in awarding grants this year – as in past years – was the lack of adequate funding for all meritorious proposals. While the committee did the best it could with rating each

criterion, committee members want to draft a memo to next year's COR with guidance on how to establish next year's criteria.

The memo should also include the rationale on why this year's COR is recommending changes. One idea is to generate a form which all PIs are required to fill with the objective information that COR needs to make the objective components of the assessment more clear. Another possible suggestion for next year's COR is to change how the committee weighs each criterion.

A major suggestion for next year's COR is to split the pot of funding and allocate it proportionally to the number of faculty in each School. The proposals should be sent to the School executive committees who should compare the quality of proposals as they have the appropriate expertise. The School executive committees can then forward the proposals back to COR – with their rationale for assessment – who will apply the criteria and complete the final rankings. This would require COR finalizing its criteria in fall semester.

Other suggestions to include in next year's criteria is to encourage faculty to submit joint proposals, and make the criteria for past funding more restrictive in order to more appropriately weigh the amount of current start up funds.

To finish this year's process, the COR analyst will email the faculty as a whole with a brief statement of how many proposals COR received and funded as well as a general explanation of why many proposals were deemed ineligible.

COR members discussed the importance of sending another memo to Division Council and Provost Peterson, stating that funding for the Senate faculty grants must increase in proportion to the growth of faculty. COR submitted such a memo in February, but the new memo should point out that COR received a high number of meritorious proposals, many of which could not be funded due to the low amount of available funding.



**ACTION:** COR analyst will draft the memo to next year's COR with the aforementioned suggestions, the email to the faculty as a whole, and the funding request memo to Division Council. All memos will be circulated among COR members for review and approval.

IV. PRG Reports

Chair Mostern met with SNS Dean Juan Meza, who is the UC Merced representative to the PRG. Dean Meza related that the PRG was satisfied with the way the process was conducted and that consensus was easily reached on the merits of the programs under consideration for systemwide funding. It was also agreed that the MRPI is highly significant and underfunded relative to its impact. Chair Mostern has related this opinion to UCORP on behalf of COR. Chair Mostern also reiterated the importance of UC Merced naming a faculty representative to next year's PRG.

V. Campus Review Items

COR had no comments on the proposed revisions to the UCM Senate regulations. Committee members discussed the revised EECS graduate proposal and still have concerns with various components.

**ACTION:** COR analyst will draft both memos to the Senate Chair on behalf of the committee.

VI. Systemwide Review Items

COR had no comments on the proposed revisions to either APM 190 (Whistleblower Complaint Policy) or the Compendium.

**ACTION:** COR analyst will draft both memos to the Senate Chair on behalf of the committee.

Before the next meeting on May 7, COR member Chen will draft a brief statement on COR's request for clarification on indirect cost return. The statement will be circulated among COR members for review and approval and the committee analyst will forward to Vice Chancellors Reese and

Feitelberg. The Vice Chancellors will attend the first half hour of the May 7 meeting to discuss indirect cost return.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:30 am.

Attest: Ruth Mostern, Chair

Minutes prepared by: Simrin Takhar, Senate Senior Analyst

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**April 14, 2014**

**To:** Ignacio López-Calvo, Chair, Division Council

**From:** Rudy Ortiz, Chair, Committee on Faculty Welfare, Diversity, and Academic Freedom (FWDAF)

**Re:** Diversity Hires

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On April 7, 2014, the faculty at UC Merced was informed that there may be only three to five faculty lines available next year, and that Provost Peterson is leaning towards allocating no faculty lines for next year.

The Faculty Welfare, Diversity, and Academic Freedom committee advocates taking this limitation as an opportunity to promote excellence and diversity at UC Merced. Instead of not having any searches, we suggest using this as an opportunity to find candidates that can contribute to diversity across the University.

We suggest that the Deans and the Provost work together to translate these three to five lines into target of opportunity hires. There are many ways that this can be done. We suggest the following:

- 1) Have a search in each school for a targeted area such as “Diversity and Inequality” or “Health Disparities.” Permit the search to be open-ended and available for any area of expertise – across disciplines. Require each candidate to write a diversity statement.
- 2) Ask each bylaw unit to submit the CV of a candidate who would contribute to diversity at UC Merced and have bylaw units compete with one another to get the line.
- 3) Use the UCOP Postdoctoral Fellows program specifically for all hires.

Thank you for your consideration.

cc: FWDAF members  
Senate office