

**Committee on Research (COR)**  
**Minutes of Meeting**  
**November 20, 2013**

Pursuant to call, the Committee on Research met at 10:00 am on November 20, 2013, in Room 362 of the Kolligian Library, Chair Ruth Mostern presiding.

I. Chair's Report

Chair Mostern reported on the following items:

--Joint DivCo/CAPRA meeting with Provost Peterson on November 7. As last year's FTE requests process had many challenges, this year's CAPRA is drafting a new process after eliciting input from the School Executive committees and Deans. The new process will allow for broader consultation of FTE requests. Provost Peterson expressed his support for cluster hires and CAPRA's FTE request process will reflect this. Meeting attendees also discussed with the Provost how to align the CAPRA FTE request process with the strategic academic focusing initiative so as not to force the faculty to create and submit two separate plans.

--Senate-Administration Library Working Group meeting on November 13. The Working Group members elicited feedback on the various Library strategic plans from their constituencies and this provided the basis for the discussion at the meeting. The Library Working Group is an ad hoc committee that is charged with identifying challenges and making recommendations to the Senate Chair and Provost; the Group is not authorized to make decisions. The Working Group's final meeting in December will be devoted to reviewing the final report, drafted by the co-chairs, that will be transmitted to the Senate Chair and Provost. The Working Group's main recommendation will be to advise on a permanent structure for a future Library advisory committee, staffed in perpetuity, similar to those that other UC campuses already have established.

--UCORP meeting on November 18. The Portfolio Review Group provided an update on their findings. There was discussion on the Multicampus Research Programs and Initiatives (MRPI), specifically, the significant budget cuts. The Office of Research has suspended this year's review and there are currently no calls for proposals. The Office of Research is debating on what

the new call should entail and it intends to write a report and make an announcement about the MRPI hiatus. Systemwide Senate Chair Bill Jacob provided an update on composite benefits rates and this issue will be distributed to the ten campuses soon. The crux of the issue is that the myriad plans that OP has suggested propose too few salary bands that do not align with the reality of faculty members' situations with summer funds paid from different sources as well as post doc and graduate student issues. A COR member mentioned that Chair Jacob announced at yesterday's Meeting of the Merced Division that Academic Council intends to ask OP to cease proposing more plans and instead conduct new analysis and new modeling.

## II. Start Up Funds

In yesterday's Meeting of the Division, Provost Peterson explained his intention to tighten the parameters around start up funds and their extension. The Provost pointed out it is difficult for him and the Chancellor to request money from UCOP when there is a significant amount of unused money on campus in the form of start up funds. In addition, the Provost is concerned about the lack of start up money for future hires.

However, the faculty use their start up funds as discretionary money in the absence of departmental and extramural funds. The extension of start up funds is something the faculty have always counted on to pay for items they could otherwise not afford, including graduate student salaries.

Furthermore, faculty believe that start up funds should be viewed by the Administration and OP as encumbered, not as extraneous money.

Provost Peterson mentioned in yesterday's meeting that start up funds will not be swept until there are alternative funding sources in place for faculty. The faculty remain deeply concerned. COR members discussed the possibility of start up funds being transferred into a separate pot of money to be managed by the Academic Senate and reallocated to faculty as discretionary funds.

**ACTION:** Committee analyst will draft a memo to Division Council with the following points: COR is aware and concerned with the start up funds issue and offers its support to the Provost, but emphasizes that sweeping start up funds before establishing an alternative funding source will be very damaging to faculty and the campus's research mission. In addition, COR hopes that the Senate will be provided with a plan detailing where the start up funds will go and what the alternative funding source is, as the campus's core research mission cannot be fulfilled without adequate faculty research support. Memo will be circulated among COR members for review and approval before transmission to Division Council.

### III. ORU Policy

Prior to this meeting, Vice Chair Marcia drafted a table of ORU, CRU, and MRU definitions that will serve as the basis for the first draft of a revised ORU policy. In Vice Chair Marcia's absence at today's meeting, Chair Mostern presented the table to committee members.

The key component in these definitions is the budgetary line. ORUs have a core budget line that is guaranteed for five years and the campus pays for the unit's administrative support and Director's stipend. After five years, the ORU undergoes review. ORU proposals are sent to the Chancellor for final approval. CRU proposals work in a similar manner but approval goes only as high as the Provost (after the VCR).

Quorum was lost near the end of the meeting, so all remaining pending business will be conducted via email.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:10 am.

Attest: Ruth Mostern, Chair

Minutes prepared by: Simrin Takhar, Senate Senior Analyst