

Committee on Research (COR)
Minutes of Meeting
February 25, 2015

Pursuant to call, the Committee on Research met at 3:00 pm on February 25, 2015 in Room 362 of the Kolligian Library, Chair David C. Noelle presiding.

I. Chair's Report

Chair Noelle updated the COR members on the following:

-- February 12 meeting with CAPRA, Division Council, and Vice Chancellor for Planning and Budget Feitelberg. VC Feitelberg communicated to faculty members the presentation he had previously presented to the systemwide committee on planning and budget at UCOP. The campus has placed three developer teams on the short list for Project 2020. The teams will visit campus in February and March to meet with stakeholders, including faculty, to solicit input on space needs. It was evident from the presentation that Project 2020 is significantly tied to the strategic academic focusing initiative and the six thematic areas identified by the Provost/EVC for investment. The faculty members in attendance voiced their concern about the assignable square feet of academic space contained in the presentation as it is significantly lower than academic space for national comparator research institutions.

--February 19 meeting with CAPRA, Division Council, and Project 2020 team. Prior to this meeting, the CAPRA chair drafted talking points for Division Council and CAPRA members that are intended to be used to communicate to each of the three developer teams. The faculty members in attendance on February 19 emphasized to the team that adequate research facilities are crucial in attracting high quality faculty. The next two developer teams will meet with faculty in March.

II. Consent Calendar

ACTION: The February 11 meeting minutes were approved as presented.

III. UC Merced Division Bylaws Proposed Revisions

After the February 11 meeting, COR drafted proposed revisions to its relevant section of the Merced Division bylaws. At today's meeting, COR members approved the draft memo.

ACTION: COR analyst to send memo with proposed bylaw revisions to the Senate chair.

IV. Agriculture and Natural Resources (ANR) Positions

At the February 11 meeting, COR members inquired about the administrative support provided to ANR faculty members at UC Merced. VC ORED Traina confirmed that both ANR positions at Merced – Research Scientists whose salaried appointments lie in ANR with courtesy appointments in SNRI and HSRI – receive administrative support through their relevant ORUs. If the Research Scientists apply for and receive adjunct faculty positions, they will then receive full support through the ORUs as well as through the Bylaw 55 Units in which they are appointed as adjunct faculty.

ACTION: VC ORED Traina to provide COR, for informational purposes, with a white paper he drafted on ANR positions.

V. Sponsored Projects Office (SPO) Director Search

COR members were previously asked by VC ORED Traina to provide input on faculty issues with SPO that will be used in the search for a new SPO Director. VC ORED indicated that he had requested the appointment of two Senate faculty members to sit on the search committee for the new Director, and he announced that he will devote one session of the interview process for interactions between Senate faculty members and each short-listed candidate.

He also mentioned that, in addition to revising the SPO Director job description, he will separate certain duties from SPO and Research Development Services (RDS).

COR members also previously expressed concerns over the patent filing process in light of the restructuring of the Office of Research and Economic Development. VC ORED Traina briefly described the rationale behind the restructuring and stated that he will ask Associate VC ORED Peter Schuerman about establishing a Senate Advisory committee for his office.

ACTION: VC ORED Traina will 1) revise the SPO Director job description and circulate to COR for comments, 2) provide COR with the rationale for separating SPO and RDS duties, and 3) ask AVC Schuerman to post the new patent filing process on the ORED website.

VI. Senate Faculty Grants Program

As part of an ongoing discussion this academic year, COR members finalized its process for the AY 14-15 Senate faculty grants proposals. Pursuant to the discussion at the February 11 meeting, COR members agreed that the committee will establish the criteria in a new call for proposals and submit it to the school executive committees. The executive committees will be tasked with reviewing proposals for quality of research and submitting their top proposals to COR for awarding. The proposed timeline is as follows:

ASAP – COR provides preview of call to school executive committees

March 4 – COR issues call for proposals to campus faculty

April 15 – Faculty submit proposals for review, initially by schools

April 29 – Executive committees submit top proposals to COR

May 6 – COR convenes to determine awards

Chair Noelle announced that he will send the communication to school executive committees before March 4 as a preliminary notice to provide COR's rationale for requesting that school executive committees review the

proposals. This communication will be circulated to COR membership for approval before being delivered.

ACTION: COR member Hein to take the lead on drafting the AY 14-15 call for proposals, which COR members will review and approve via email. Chair Noelle will circulate his draft message, to be sent to school executive committees, to COR for review and approval before sending it to the executive committees. The call for proposals will be issued to both campus faculty members and school executive committees on March 4.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:30 pm.

Attest: David C. Noelle, COR Chair

Minutes prepared by: Simrin Takhar, Senate Analyst