

**Committee on Research (COR)**  
**Minutes of Meeting**  
**August 28, 2013**

Pursuant to call, the Committee on Research met at 10:00 am on August 28, 2013 in Room 324 of the Kolligian Library, Chair Ruth Mostern presiding.

I. Chair's Report

Chair Mostern welcomed the members of the newly-created Committee on Research (COR) to its inaugural meeting. She provided an overview of the inception of COR and explained the rationale behind the splitting of Graduate and Research Council (GRC) into two committees: Graduate Council (GC) and COR.

II. COR Goals for AY 13-14

--ORUs/CRUs/Centers. As is standard on other campuses, it is important to have a process by which ORUs, CRUs, and Centers are approved, implemented, funded, and have guidelines for periodic review. VCR Traina pointed out that it is a two-step process: 1) examining applications and evaluating based on the contributions to the university's research mission and 2) feasibility of funding. After the Academic Senate completes this two-step process, the application must then go through the campus budget cycle. There are certain centers currently operating on campus that were not reviewed by the Senate as they applied directly to the Office of Research. The long-term goal for ensuring these policies are in place – in addition to the need for clarity on terminology – is to eventually release an RFP to all faculty who want to form research entities. COR members were reminded that in 2009, GRC did draft a policy on ORUs and CRUs that was intended for campus use.

**ACTION:** COR analyst will obtain from the GC analyst the 2009 GRC policy on ORUs and CRUs. COR analyst will research other UC campus policies on ORUs and CRUs and provide the information to COR members. This item will be added to the next meeting's agenda where a COR member will be identified to take the lead on this issue.

--Lab safety issues. In the last academic year, there were many critical issues surrounding chemistry labs and the need to be in compliance with state laws. While COR will operate in a reactive role, the committee still needs to be cognizant of the external regulations and state laws pertaining to lab and field research safety.

**ACTION:** Professor Hein was absent from this meeting but Chair Mostern will ask at the next meeting that he take the lead on this issue for COR as he is a chemistry faculty member and therefore aware of the issues.

--Faculty research/travel/shared equipment grants. This is a former GRC function that is now under the purview of COR. While the request for proposals is not sent out to Senate faculty until spring semester, COR should review the criteria and eligibility for the grants in advance. COR may decide to leave the criteria as is, or, make the grants only eligible for assistant professors, or for faculty nearing the depletion of their start-up packages, or, similar to UCLA, only for faculty in the Humanities.

**ACTION:** COR analyst will collect other UC campuses' proposals and provide them for the next meeting so COR members can compare with UCM's practices. Chair Mostern will later identify a COR member to take the lead on the issue.

--Relocation expenses for postdoctoral scholars. After a brief discussion and input from VCR Traina, it was decided that this issue is under the purview of the Academic Personnel Office (APO) and the Office of Research.

**ACTION:** COR analyst will contact APO and the Office of Research for relevant policies and guidelines and post on COR's CROPS site for informational purposes.

--Faculty support for international research issues. Many faculty who host international visitors in their labs and research programs need a point of contact on campus for assistance and clarity with visa issues specific to research visitors. UCM does not appear to have a streamlined process and it is important for the campus to be in compliance in addition to providing support for faculty members' research endeavors. VCR Traina related that Provost Peterson's Chief

of Staff is currently arranging a meeting on this issue and there may be a report generated at the conclusion of the meeting.

**ACTION:** COR analyst will contact the Provost's Chief of Staff to inquire about her meeting and whether there will be Senate representation. The COR analyst will also try to obtain any reports that are generated from the Provost's office on this issue.

--Head Librarian search. Interim Head Librarian Donald Barclay has been filling the role of Head Librarian since Bruce Miller's retirement in 2010. Faculty have various concerns about the library such as effective communication between faculty and the library and the library's capacity to support the campus's research mission. Chair Mostern mentioned that Provost Peterson is aware of the need to launch the Head Librarian search, but she also stated the importance of COR continually addressing the library's issues.

Chair Mostern then opened the discussion to COR members to add their own goals for AY 13-14.

A COR member suggested the goal of more effective support for faculty for grant writing. Over the past few years, there have been attempts at both the campus and School level to hire grant writing staff. VCR Traina announced that the Office of Research, led by Research Development Director Susan Carter, is redesigning the grant writing and submittal process. Also, Traina previously submitted a report to SACAP on the grants restructuring process.

**ACTION:** VCR Traina will send the COR analyst the plan he drafted to SACAP on the announcement and outline of a new model for the administration of extramurally funded grants at UCM and the analyst will distribute to COR members.

Another COR member requested the issue of indirect cost recovery be added as an ongoing issue/goal for the committee. VCR Traina related that the campus is undergoing another change in its rate calculation. The issue will reside in the Provost's office but the Provost is collaborating with Vice Provost for Planning and Budget Dan Feitelberg on developing a new model for distribution. There is a primer on the Office of Research's website that could provide some guidance

with the rate calculation. In addition, UC Berkeley drafted a white paper in 2005 on the model for sponsored research on that campus.

**ACTION:** COR analyst will research the rate calculation models on other campuses and invite Autumn Tjalsma Salazar (Director of Contract and Grant Accounting) and Sheryl Ireland (Director of Controls and Accountability) to a future COR meeting to discuss funding distribution. VCR Traina will send the UC Berkeley white paper to COR analyst who will distribute to the COR members.

COR members then held a lengthy discussion on distribution models and rate calculations at UCM compared to other campuses. VCR Traina summarized the old model that UCM used to follow: from the money that came to UCM from UCOP, one-third went into the general fund to operate the campus, one-third went into the restricted salary pool to pay the individuals who were doing accounting on grants, and approximately one-third went into the discretionary pot of money called the “opportunity funds”. Now, the campus has changed to a funding stream model. While UCM has the legal authority to do as it wishes with its indirect costs (reimbursements for expenses that the campus has already paid), the campus is restricted by the current budget reality.

**ACTION:** These goals will be kept on the agenda throughout the year. A COR member must be identified to take the lead on the issue of indirect cost recovery.

Chair Mostern also identified a few issues that might come to COR and the campus from the corresponding University Committee on Research Policy (UCORP): summer salary rates and the reduction of funding for certain UCOP research programs. A report from systemwide on the funding reduction will eventually be distributed to the campuses for comments.

VCR Traina announced that there is a research subcommittee on the campus physical planning committee that is attempting to identify academic space needs in 2020. SNS Professor Marilyn Fogel, a CAPRA member, is a co-chair of this subcommittee and has had conversations with VCR Traina on space implications. Traina and SoE Dean Dan Hirleman are also committee members. The subcommittee will make recommendations on which core research facilities the campus needs in 2020. Chair Mostern mentioned this issue was brought up

in the Division Council meeting yesterday and that there is a joint faculty administration 2020 committee. VCR Traina stated that the subcommittee's report is due at the end of September or early October and will be used as the basis for a future RFP for builders.

**ACTION:** VCR Traina will send the research subcommittee's report to COR members. COR analyst will invite Professor Fogel and Dean Hirleman to a future COR meeting.

III. Consent Calendar – approval of the agenda.

**ACTION:** Agenda was approved as presented.

IV. Physics proposal. In AY 12-13, the Physics graduate group submitted a proposal to establish a graduate program leading to M.S. and Ph.D. degrees. All Senate standing committees are asked to review and comment by Friday, September 20. While COR is not the lead reviewer, the committee should review the proposal to determine if it enhances the research mission of the campus, how it relates to the campus's current research profile, and, whether the research areas emphasized in the proposal have the potential for extramural support.

**ACTION:** COR member David Noelle will take the lead on reviewing the proposal and providing comments at the next COR meeting.

V. SACAP charge. The Senate-Administration Council on Assessment is undergoing a revision to its charge at the request of the Provost. Senate standing committees are asked to review and comment by Monday, September 30.

**ACTION:** COR members reviewed the charge prior to the meeting and have no comments. COR analyst will draft a memo on behalf of Chair Mostern and transmit to Senate Chair López-Calvo.

VI. Open Access Policy. The systemwide Senate adopted the policy in July 2013. UCM's library is now in the process of creating a mechanism for implementation. All campuses will be affected by the end of 2014. Interim

Head Librarian Donald Barclay previously offered to attend a COR meeting to present the library's proposed implementation plan.

**ACTION:** COR analyst will invite Interim Head Librarian Barclay to the September 25 COR meeting. COR analyst will send the Open Access Policy documents to COR members who had difficulties opening the documents on CROPS. At the request of a COR member, this item will remain on future agendas for further discussion.

- VII. Senate-Administration Library Working Group. Last year, some faculty were concerned by the communication challenges between the faculty and the library as well as the library's contribution to the campus's research mission. In addition, the library underwent period review in the spring semester 2013. The Library Working Group was formed last year to discuss these various issues; however, the group was not populated in a timely manner and only met once in spring 2013. Chair Mostern co-chaired last year's group with Interim Head Librarian Barclay and she confirmed that she and Barclay are committed to leading the committee this year and submitting a final report by early spring 2014. This report would also serve as a resource in the future Head Librarian search.

**ACTION:** Chair Mostern will draft a memo to Senate Chair López-Calvo requesting that the Committee on Committees identify faculty members, undergraduate, and graduate students to serve on the 2013-2014 Library Working Group. Chair Mostern will distribute the memo to COR members this week for comments and the COR analyst will transmit to the Senate Chair.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:20 am.

Attest: Ruth Mostern, COR Chair

Minutes prepared by: Simrin Takhar, Senate Senior Analyst