Committee on Research (COR)
Minutes of Meeting
September 11, 2013

Pursuant to call, the Committee on Research met at 10:00 am on September 11, 2013, in Room 324 of the Kolligian Library, Vice Chair Roummel Marcia presiding.

I.   Vice Chair's Report
       In Chair Mostern's absence, Vice Chair Marcia briefed the committee on the
       time-sensitive issues on the agenda.

II.   Consent Calendar
       --The agenda was approved as presented.
       --The August 28 meeting minutes were approved as presented.

III.   Course Buyout Policy
       A draft policy was developed by the Provost and School Deans in 2012.   The
       Provost and Deans are now seeking approval of the policy for five years after
       which a re-evaluation of the policy will occur. Prior to this meeting, COR
       members were asked to review the draft policy as well as the 2012 memo
       from then-Senate Chair Susan Amussen to then-EVC Keith Alley which
       included DivCo's comments on the draft course buyout policy.

       The consensus among COR members is that the revised policy from the
       Provost did not address all of the issues contained in the 2012 memo from
       former Senate Chair Amussen to former EVC Alley. COR members agreed
       that DivCo's comments were reasonable and there is no rationale for why the
       revised course buyout policy does not include the comments.

       ACTION: Committee analyst will draft a memo on behalf of COR that
       requests clarification on why the revised course buyout policy did not
       incorporate the comments from the 2012 DivCo and that COR believes the
       comments from DivCo are reasonable.   The draft memo will be distributed to
       COR members for approval and then transmitted to Senate Chair López-
       Calvo by the deadline of Monday, September 23.

IV. Lab Safety Issues

A COR member related a specific incident that occurred in his School. A student on a graduate student researcher (GSR) appointment suffered a dental injury.   The GSR had to pay entirely out of pocket as he is not considered a University employee. The overhead costs for GSRs are paid by the individual PIs who employ them from their grants; therefore, as non-University employees, the GSRs are not covered under University health insurance.   COR members held a brief discussion on the ramifications of this policy and the various difficulties that GSRs face with securing health coverage.

 A COR member also mentioned that last semester, he drafted a charge for the new Campus Safety Committee and was informed that potential faculty members on this committee must be approved by the Senate Committee on Committees (CoC).   CoC has not yet provided a status update.

ACTION: The issue of GSR health coverage will be placed on the next COR agenda on September 25 for further discussion with VCR Traina with the goal of assisting the particular GSR mentioned above. COR member Jason Hein was identified as the lead for lab safety issues and will update COR throughout the AY 13-14 on any further issues. The committee analyst will request an update on the Campus Safety Committee from the CoC analyst.

V. ORU Policy

At the August 28 meeting, COR agreed that one of its AY 2013-2014 goals is to review UCM's ORU policy as well as the ORU policies of other UC campuses with the intention of deciding whether UCM's policy should be revised. The action item for today's meeting is to identify the COR member who will take the lead on this issue throughout the AY 13-14 year.

ACTION: COR Vice Chair Roummel Marcia was identified as the lead for ORU policy and will update COR throughout the year.

VI.   Faculty Research/Travel/Shared Equipment Grants
        At the August 28 meeting, COR agreed that one of its AY 2013-2014 goals is
        to review UCM's call for faculty research/travel/shared equipment grants as
        well as the calls for similar grants at UC campuses with the intention of
        deciding whether COR should revise the eligibility for these grants. After
        that meeting, the committee analyst compiled the grant criteria and eligibility
        from other UC campuses and posted them on the COR UCMCROPS site for
        committee members to review and compare. The action item for today's
        meeting is to identify a COR member to take the lead on this issue for COR
        throughout the AY 13-14.

        A COR member related that faculty members have complained about the lack
        of transparency in the criteria used to award the grants. It was suggested that
        the call for 2014 grants include language on criteria.

        The committee discussed changing the eligibility of the grants, such as
        gearing the grants towards untenured faculty members who need bridge
        funding (as done on another UC campus), gear the grants towards faculty
        members who have specific research needs (e.g., equipment, data) to apply
        for extramural funding (as done on another UC campus).

        COR discussed the difficulties the committee may face as they review the
        grants in spring semester. COR is comprised of just five members. A COR
        member suggested the call go out earlier than April in order to give the
        committee more time to review the grants. Other issues include: how to
        distribute funds equitably across the Schools, how to balance funding
        numerous small need-based bridge funding proposals versus fewer larger-
        scale proposals and how to weigh proposals from faculty members who have
        already been awarded a Senate grant against faculty members submitting a
        first-time proposal.

        Another COR member requested the committee strategically reconsider these
        grants in terms of strategic goals and planning. Specifically, should these

grants always remain small, at $5,000, or do we eventually want them to grow to be much more significant awards?

COR also discussed the Senate research/travel/shared equipment grants in relation to the Hellman awards which have a more specific purpose.

A COR member requested that awardees of the grants be listed publicly.

ACTION: COR member David Noelle was identified as the lead on the grants issue and will review the UCM Senate grant criteria and eligibility and those of other UC campuses.

VII.   Indirect Cost Return

At the August 28 meeting, COR agreed that the issue of indirect cost recovery be added as an ongoing issue/goal for the committee in AY 2013-2014. At that meeting, VCR Traina announced that UCM is undergoing a change to its distribution model. After the meeting, the committee analyst compiled the rates and distribution models from other UC campuses and posted them on COR UCMCROPS for committee members to review and compare. The action item for today's meeting is to identify a COR member to take the lead on this issue for AY 13-14 and compare the rates and models of other UC campuses to UCM.

ACTION: COR member YangQuan Chen was identified as the lead for this issue and will keep COR informed throughout AY 13-14 on his comparison of UC campus rates and models.

VIII.   Physics Proposal

At the August 28 meeting, a COR member was identified to take the lead on reviewing the proposal and providing comments at today's meeting. Prior to today's meeting, Chair Mostern also submitted her comments and Vice Chair Marcia read them to the committee members.

The lead COR member provided an overview of his comments and the committee held a brief discussion. A COR member inquired whether there is a minimum threshold for the approval of a graduate group and was informed that it varies across disciplines.   The approval process at both the campus and systemwide level at CCGA is rigorous and comprehensive. There was also an inquiry about the rejection of a graduate proposal, and, the possibility of a graduate program being disestablished. The committee discussed the program review assessment cycle and the fact that graduate programs are subjected to periodic review.

ACTION: The COR member who took the lead on reviewing the Physics proposal will email his review to the committee analyst. The review will be posted on the COR UCMCROPS site. The analyst will compile all comments from COR and distribute to the committee for final review. Upon approval, committee analyst will transmit a memo with all comments on behalf of COR to Senate Chair López-Calvo by the deadline of Friday, September 20.

IX.   Open Access Policy
Vice Chair Marcia briefly reiterated that this policy was already approved by the UC in July 2013. Interim Head Librarian Donald Barclay will attend the next COR meeting on September 25 to discuss the Library's implementation plan. COR members related their own experiences with uploading journal articles to the online system; the process is arduous and sometimes problematic and the committee looks forward to discussing this with Barclay.

ACTION: Committee analyst will email the COR members the Open Access Policy FAQs document.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:15 am.

Attest: Roummel Marcia, Vice Chair

Minutes prepared by: Simrin Takhar, Senate Senior Analyst