

**Committee on Research (COR)**  
**Wednesday, January 11, 2017**  
**11:00-12:00 PM KL 362**  
**Documents available at [UCM BOX](#)**

Pursuant to call, the Committee on Research met at 11:05 AM on January 11, 2017 in Room 362 of the Kolligian Library, Chair David Noelle presiding.

**I. Chair's Report – David Noelle**

The Chair welcomed new COR members Stephen Nicholson and Sungjin Im, and reported on the following:

- a. Division Council – December 15, 2016
  - i. Chair Amussen reported on an effort to conduct a review of the Provost. The procedure for such a review was found to be incomplete.
  - ii. The Committee on Committees assisted with forming a Dean's Search Committee for the School of Natural Sciences.
  - iii. A policy document was released last semester concerning restrictions on compensation for summer session teaching. DivCo raised concerns about the source of this policy, also pointing out that the authority for conducting summer sessions should be under academic affairs rather than student affairs.
  - iv. UC Academic Council met and discussed a proposal for a 2.5% increase in tuition. There continues to be pressure, however, for no tuition increases. There is also a push from the legislature to cap the number of non-resident students to 20% of the student body on each campus. Such a cap might also include a mechanism for "trading" non-resident rights between campuses, and such a mechanism could very well direct funds to UC Merced from some of the other campuses that have many non-resident students.
  - v. There was a discussion regarding the draft definition of student success (reviewed by COR on November 30, 2016) with specific attention made towards the time to degree, professional development, and student learning. DivCo noted a need for additional emphasis on the student learning component. Further revision will be done for this draft definition.
  - vi. There was an effort made to develop recommendations on how to perform salary equity studies, with committees stating they do not have enough information to create such recommendations. This prompted a brief discussion concerning the types of data that should be collected for such studies.
  - vii. The Library and Scholarly Communications committee (LASC) requested that DivCo endorse their white paper regarding the utilization of the administrative wing of the Kolligian Library to provide additional services. DivCo opted to delay endorsement, and it requested additional information about the viability of resource allocation for these additional services, as well as what would happen to current staff and services that would be displaced by this proposal.

- II. **Consent Calendar**
  - a. The December 14, 2016 Minutes were approved as presented.
  - b. The January 11, 2017 Agenda was approved as presented.
  
- III. **Sierra Nevada Research Institute (SNRI) ORU Review Committee**
  - a. VC-ORED Traina noted that former Executive Vice Chancellor and current emeritus Keith Alley has agreed to represent the School of Natural Sciences. VC-ORED Traina would also be contacting the external review member to confirm their continued availability. He will also verify whether or not SNRI would like to update their self-study documents due to the review delay.
  
- IV. **Survey of Faculty Concerning Staff Support for Extramural Funding Efforts**
  - a. Member Saha has provided a draft summary of the survey results, with COR to provide comments at the next meeting. A member asked if means/standard deviation could be added along with the bar graphs, and the COR Analyst was charged with adding these statistics and circulating the result to the committee.
  
- V. **Recommendations Regarding Faculty Start-Up and Incidental Expense Funds**
  - a. In response to memos from COR and DivCo, FWAf revised their initial memo on faculty start-up and incidental expense funds down to two points. Chair Noelle requested that DivCo remove this item from their consent calendar to allow COR to provide further comments. In particular, COR members wanted information concerning what other UCs do with regard to the handling of start-up funds and incidental funds. The COR Analyst polled the other campuses and provided the committee with their responses. Chair Noelle would revise the memo to DivCo and circulate to the committee for their comments via email, so that it could be added to the DivCo agenda for January 19.
  
- VI. **Purchasing and Research – Ramen Saha**
  - a. This item will be included in a future agenda.
  
- VII. **Center for the Humanities ORU Proposal**
  - a. Letters of comment have been received from SSHA Dean Robbins and VC-ORED Traina, per policy. Chair Noelle has sent a memo to the ORU lead author citing policy requirements, which were previously unclear, as well as observations made by the Chair on areas where the proposal could be improved. The currently published UCM policy document will also need to be revised and/or made more clear regarding the full system-wide requirements for proposals to establish a new ORU. This will be added to a future COR agenda.
  
- VIII. **ORU Proposal Initiation Issues**
  - a. This item will be included in a future agenda.
  
- IX. **Identify AY 2016-2017 High Priority Issues for COR**
  - a. This item will be included in a future agenda.

**X. Campus Review Items****a. Incentive Plan for Revenue Generating Master's Degree Programs**

- i. The committee discussed this incentive plan, citing concerns involving the role of Non-Resident Supplemental Tuition, a lack of clarity concerning the calculation of the distributed revenue, a lack of clarity with regard to students who have their tuition paid by external sources, whether additional costs will be covered by distributed tuition revenue, and who would certify if a given Master's program qualifies for revenue distribution. A memo will be drafted to the Senate Chair including these concerns, along with recommendations for expanding the policy document to further address seed funding structure, roll-over of disbursed revenue, and the undesirability of uniform duration requirements for qualifying Master's programs, as these standards vary across fields.

**b. UC Merced Policy for Access to Student Data**

- i. The committee discussed this new draft policy, citing some inconsistencies in the policy language and also noting that neither graduate groups nor the Academic Senate were included as possible requestors for data. The document does not adequately address research activities, and the committee felt that additional clarity is needed for access to student data for research purposes. A memo would be sent to the Senate Chair highlighting these issues.

**c. Revised Report from the Task Force on University Honors**

- i. The committee discussed this revised report, noting that faculty time, as well as material assets, could be spent on an honors program. Chair Noelle will draft a memo and circulate to the committee for comment.

**XI. Systemwide Review Items****a. Proposed Revised G-28 Travel Regulations**

- i. The committee discussed and agreed to support the proposed revisions to this policy.

**b. Proposed Revisions to Senate Regulation 630.D**

- i. This item would be added to the next COR agenda.

**XII. Upcoming Business**

- a. Future Funding of Senate Faculty Grants Program
- b. Faculty Start-Up Funds & Other Campus Sources of Research Support
- c. ORU Proposal - Center for Human Adaptive Systems and Environments (CHASE)
- d. Blum Center reorganization
- e. Administering the Senate Faculty Grants Program
- f. Monitoring Progress of the 2020 Project

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:05 PM.

Attest:

David Noelle, COR Chair