Committee on Research (COR) Wednesday, March 8, 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 March 8, 2017 in Room 362 of the Kolligian Library, Chair David Noelle presiding.

I. Chair's Report – David Noelle

The Chair reported on the following:

- a. Division Council March 2, 2017
 - i. A space allocation committee was populated without Senate consultation, and DivCo is in communication with the administration, explaining that the Senate needs to be included in such decisions.
 - ii. Systemwide, the Senate has approved an increase in tuition.
 - iii. UCOP decided to release redacted descriptions of sexual harassment events over the last three years. Redaction was managed on each campus. The Merced Sun-Star published an article on the reported cases associated with UC Merced. Members of DivCo raised a concern that, despite the fact that some information was redacted, individuals involved in the cases could be identified by crossreferencing the released data with other publicly-available information.
 - **iv.** The indirect cost rate for financial awards from state agencies will be increased over several years to 40%. Funding from federal agencies is not affected by this decision.
 - **v.** Academic Council discussed concerns over a potential loss of federal funding for state programs, noting that funding for the UC is discretionary in the state budget and, therefore, easy to cut to compensate for other losses.
 - vi. The Academic Council discussed renaming Lecturers with Security Of Employment (LSOE) to some other title, such as "Professor of Instruction".
 - **vii.** Systemwide work is being done to provide equity of benefits to domestic partners.
 - viii. UC Berkeley is interested in requiring letters of recommendation for undergraduate applicants. There is resistance to this idea, however, due to the lack of equity across the state with regard to high school resources for the generation of such letters. The result of such a policy might be a bias in the applicant pool in favor of students from high schools that have the resources to afford a staff member for this task.
 - ix. ANR and the national labs have been allocated endowed chairs from UCOP. There has been some debate in the Academic Senate concerning the responsibilities of these chairs and the criteria for being awarded with a chair. Historically, positions of these kinds require some form of excellence in research, with the evaluation of such excellence informed by members of the Senate. ANR, however, is considering awarding chairs to individuals who do not conduct research, such as agricultural consultants.
 - **x.** UC Merced has been recognized as understaffed in comparison to other UC's. No solution for this problem has been proposed, but this may be addressed in the 2040 systemwide vision statements.

- **xi.** The Academic Council discussed the formation of a systemwide Police Advisory Board.
- **xii.** UCM FWAF is reviewing benefits for emeriti faculty.
- **xiii.** FWAF has received reports of students physically intimidating some faculty who have expressed strong opinions on political issues. FWAF is considering options for increasing faculty safety and generally preventing violent altercations.
- **xiv.** CAPRA has recommended that deliberations over the allocation of foundational FTE lines should take into account the contents of recent program reviews.
- **xv.** DivCo approved a minor in World Heritage.
- **xvi.** DivCo approved the University Honors <u>taskforce report</u>, with a request that additional details, especially regarding resources, be provided in any future formal proposal for the establishment of a University Honors program.
- xvii. DivCo approved a revision to Senate Regulation 630.D.
- xviii. DivCo endorsed the aspirations described in the LASC white paper regarding plans for an expansion of Library space and services. Concerns over the availability of resources to pursue these aspirations prompted an additional call for greater representation of the Library on decision-making bodies focusing on space and other resource issues.
- **b.** UCORP Meeting February 13, 2017
 - i. This will be added to the next COR agenda.

II. Consent Calendar

- **a.** The February 22, 2017 Minutes were approved as presented.
- **b.** The March 8, 2017 Agenda was approved as presented.

III. Sierra Nevada Research Institute (SNRI) ORU Review Committee

a. VC-ORED Traina reported that the review committee had been formed, and SNRI has been given the opportunity to update their self-study. The site visit will be scheduled once all reviewers have been contacted.

IV. Senate Awards - Distinguished Early Career Research and Distinction in Research

- **a.** Nominations for the two awards are being received by the Senate Office. Three members volunteered to participate in the review of applications for each award.
- **b.** Applications will be available to the review committees by March 23, and final decisions should be ready by April 19.

V. Administering the Academic Senate Faculty Research Grants Program

a. COR discussed the call for proposals. Many members provided their thoughts and concerns about senior faculty and junior faculty collaborations, noting the value of mentorship but also the possibility of junior faculty being used as a tool to improve the likelihood of funding. The committee expressed concern about the idea of removing a priority for junior faculty, since senior faculty, with established research programs and extensive experience, would likely dominate the competition if this priority was not in place. The committee agreed that juniority of proposal authors would be considered, and approved changes to the language of the call. COR member Wooding agreed to revise the document and circulate it for approval before distribution, with the deadline for submissions being set to April 12, 2017.

VI. Purchasing and Research – Ramen Saha

a. This will be added as a future agenda item.

VII. UCOP Initiative - NASA AMES - VC-ORED Traina

a. VC-ORED Traina discussed an initiative between UCOP and NASA Ames involving the leasing of approximately 16 acres at Moffett Field, with the intent to develop new opportunities for UC researchers, including creating new space for both research and industrial collaboration. Both he and Vice Provost and Dean of Graduate Education Marjorie Zatz are serving on the working group for this initiative. VC-ORED Traina noted that, despite requests for representation by the Academic Senate, no contact with the Academic Senate has been made.

A memo will be submitted to DivCo requesting the delivery of a formal statement to Christine Gulbranson, UC Senior Vice President of Innovation & Entrepreneurship, who is leading this initiative, requesting that consultation with the Academic Senate be sought.

VIII. Systemwide Review Items

- a. Guide to Senate Committee Membership & Executive Session
 - i. Background: Senate Chair Amussen has requested review and comment on a draft Guide to Senate Committee Membership and the Purpose and Practice of Executive Session, to establish a common reference regarding fundamental aspects of Senate committee membership and function.
 - ii. Action: COR is to send comments to the Senate Chair by 5:00 PM on Friday, March 24, 2017.

b. Draft Presidential Unmanned Aircraft System (UAS) Policy

- i. Background: This policy establishes minimum standards for the safe use and operation of UAS and Small Unmanned Aircraft Systems (SUAS), including drones and model aircraft, at any University location or at any authorized University activity. COR and GC are lead committees for this review.
- **ii. Action:** COR is to send comments to the Senate Chair by 5:00 PM on Thursday, March 30, 2017.

IX. Upcoming Business

- a. Proposals for Five New Academic Units in the School of Engineering
- **b.** Center for the Humanities ORU Proposal
- c. Identify AY 2016-2017 High Priority Issues for COR
- d. Future Funding of Senate Faculty Grants Program
- e. ORU Proposal Center for Human Adaptive Systems and Environments (CHASE)
- **f.** ORU Proposal Initiation Issues
- g. Blum Center reorganization
- h. Monitoring Progress of the 2020 Project

X. Other Business

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

Attest:

David Noelle, COR Chair