Committee on Research (COR)
Minutes of Meeting
January 15, 2014

Pursuant to call, the Committee on Research met at 10:00 am on January 15, 2014, in Room 362 of the Kolligian Library, Chair Ruth Mostern presiding.

I.   Chair's Report

Chair Mostern updated COR members on the January 13 UCORP meeting. During the discussion on composite benefit rates, UCORP members were asked to examine grants on their respective campuses and calculate the impact on the budgets if benefits increased from 12% to 33% on summer salary.   UCORP also provided an update on the Portfolio Review Group. This group will be reconstituted after six months. It is hoped that the campuses that currently do not have faculty representation on the group will have an opportunity to do so. Merced's representative is SNS Dean Meza. Another topic of discussion at UCORP was the roll-out of the Open Access policy.   Some UC faculty have been asked by publishers to pay for the gold Open Access fees when in fact the California Digital Library and individual campus libraries have stated that they will cover those costs. UC Merced will join the Open Access pilot program next year and it is important to inform our faculty that they are not responsible for paying the gold Open Access fees.

VCR Traina reported that MRPIs will receive bridge funding.

ACTION: VCR Traina will ask Autumn Tjalsma Salazar, Director of Contract and Grant Accounting, to calculate the impact on grants' budgets if the benefits were as high as 33%.

II.   Consent Calendar

ACTION: Today's agenda and the December 4, 2013 meeting minutes were approved as presented.

III.   Campuswide Review Item
Senate standing committees were asked to review the new WASC core
competency expectation.

ACTION: COR analyst will submit a memo to the Senate Chair stating that
COR has no comments.

IV.   Systemwide Review Item
Senate standing committees were asked to review the draft documents
pertaining to Professional Degree Supplemental Tuition.

ACTION: COR analyst will submit a memo to the Senate Chair stating that
COR has no comments.

V.   Revised ORU/CRU/MRU/Core Facilities Policies
Prior to this meeting, a COR member drafted a comparison table of the four
research entities, a comprehensive review criteria for each, and flow charts
illustrating the approval process.

After a lengthy discussion, COR members suggested the following revisions:

--in the MRU documents, add MRPI
--in the MRU flow chart, indicate the UCOP review process by including a
box simply stating "UCOP"
--in the ORU flow chart, indicate that all Deans and the VCR are part of the
approval process
 --indicate that COR will accept new proposals on a rolling basis.
--indicate that existing units should be notified that the Senate will review
them on a five year basis.

ACTION: COR will draft a cover memo to DivCo and append the
ORU/CRU/MRU & MRPI/Core Facilities draft policies as a request for Senate
approval. The memo should indicate that any research center or unit on

campus who requests funding needs to seek Senate approval. The memo may also acknowledge that there centers who do not seek VCR funding due to being exclusively funded externally, or do not use any campus resources, or are funded through one particular School. But, these entities are still encouraged to still seek Senate approval.   If DivCo approves the draft policies, they will be submitted to the Provost for final approval. After all levels of review have concluded, the Senate should contact the research units on campus that were never reviewed by the Senate and request that a formal review be conducted.

VI.   Revised Senate Faculty Research/Travel/Shared Equipment Awards Call

Prior to the meeting, a COR member drafted a revised grants criteria that divides the Call for Proposals into categories for Assistance grants (bridge funding), Dissemination grants (travel expenses), and Project grants (in support of general research activities including paying research assistants, supplies, and equipment).

The committee discussed whether an additional criteria should be urgency of need. Another suggestion was to delete Assistance grants and keep Dissemination and Project grants but require different submission dates. The committee also discussed the eligibility of full time unit 18 lecturers who have been at the University for at least one year; this would involve seeking input from the union, APO, and Staff Assembly. Even though unit 18 lecturers are non-Senate faculty, they play a pivotal role in the University and should not be disenfranchised.

ACTION: The revised Call will be placed on the agenda for further discussion at the next COR meeting of January 29. A final Call will be sent to all Senate faculty in early February. COR will send a memo to DivCo stating that in AY 14-15, the Senate should address whether to allow unit 18 lecturers to apply for Senate grants. VCR Traina will consult with Provost Peterson and VCPB Feitelberg on the possibility of creating an emergency research fund to be shared between the Schools and the administration.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:30 am.

Attest: Ruth Mostern, Chair

Minutes prepared by: Simrin Takhar, Senate Senior Analyst