

**Committee on Research (COR)**  
**Minutes of Meeting**  
**January 29, 2014**

Pursuant to call, the Committee on Research met at 10:00 am on January 29, 2014, in Room 362 of the Kolligian Library, Chair Ruth Mostern presiding.

I. Chair's Report

As Division Council has not yet met this semester, Chair Mostern had no updates. VCR Traina made the following announcements:

-- President Napolitano is considering the implementation of a Presidential Grand Challenge Initiative which will provide funds for systemwide research initiatives. The systemwide VCRs were asked to provide recommendations on the formulation of such a program; in addition, VCRs were asked to make a list of research foci on their campuses which would be eligible for the President's initiative. The proposals must be multi-campus collaborations but are independent of MRUs. The main criteria for proposals may include: the distinctiveness of the research foci and its potential impact.

--President Napolitano is considering spending funds on licenses for UC intellectual property. With the goal of keeping California industries viable and competitive, she wants to grow the area of technology commercialization.

II. Consent Calendar

Today's agenda and the January 15 meeting minutes were approved as presented.

III. Senate Faculty Research Grants

Prior to this meeting, a COR member revised the evaluation criteria in the Call for Proposals for the annual Senate faculty research grants. COR members discussed the revised Call including the idea of capping the awards, changing the submission deadline to an earlier date, language for the research travel section, and adding a line that COR reserves the right to make adjustments in the rankings of proposals much like that of federal funding agencies.

**ACTION:** A revised Call for Proposals will be circulated among the committee for final review. Upon conclusion of the review, the Call will be formally emailed to all Senate faculty by early February. The committee analyst will draft two memos from COR addressed to the Provost and VCR (to be sent via Division Council): one memo will request that in the next budget cycle, there should be an “emergency” source of funding, controlled by central administration, for faculty members experiencing gaps in funding; the second memo will point out that research funds for Senate faculty grants have not kept up with the growth in faculty numbers and that a mechanism should be established to ensure that Senate funds grow in proportion to the amount of faculty. Both memos will be reviewed and approved by COR before being transmitted to the Senate chair.

IV. ORU Policy

Prior to this meeting, a cover memo to DivCo was drafted that explained the submission of a set of revised, comprehensive policies, formulated by COR, on the review of campus research units. COR members discussed the memo.

**ACTION:** Committee analyst will circulate the revised memo to the committee members for a final review before transmitting to the Senate chair.

V. Campus Research Safety Committee

Prior to this meeting, a draft charge for this proposed joint Senate-Administration committee was circulated among COR members for review.

**ACTION:** VCR Traina will revise the charge and will lead the discussion at the next meeting.

VI. Indirect Cost Return

VCR Traina mentioned that the Provost is considering establishing a working group of senior administrators to address indirect cost return. It is important to have Senate representation on the working group. In addition to analyzing the policies on other UC campuses, COR should examine what has been done

at UC Merced thus far and what were the guiding principles behind the policies.

**ACTION:** Committee analyst will send VCR Traina and the COR member tasked with leading the discussion on indirect cost return the policies from other UC campuses (collected in fall semester). At the next meeting, the COR member and VCR Traina will lead the discussion on indirect cost return.

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

Attest: Ruth Mostern, Chair

Minutes prepared by: Simrin Takhar, Senate Senior Analyst