

Committee on Research (COR)  
Minutes of Meeting  
March 15, 2016  
KL 360

Pursuant to call, the Committee on Research met at 10:00 am on March 15, 2016 in Room 360 of the Kolligian Library, Chair Ajay Gopinathan presiding.

I. Chair's Report

Chair Gopinathan updated COR members on the following:

- a. March 7 Division Council meeting. Presentation by Nate Munroe about University review and improvement. Proposed guidelines for search waivers were discussed, UCORE also discussed this topic with no red flags raised.
- b. March 14 UCORP meeting. Discussion of the retirement options plan, gives more options for people who stay for the short term. Senior faculty tend not to leave in their 50's due to the UC pension plan, and if the pension plan is not competitive, we stand to lose faculty in the prime of their productivity, which affects research quality.
- c. LANL is being collaboratively administered between the UC and BECHTEL. The lab culture is resistant to outside influence, where BECHTEL is profit-driven. The question in front of the UC is whether or not to keep the LLC model.
- d. UCMEXUS has been recommended for continuation, after their 15-year review. Concern raised about their funding model being sustainable.
- e. Will Tucker, interim Vice President of Research and Graduate Studies, indicated he will not be continuing in the position.
- f. Kathleen Irvine reported on two calls:
  - i. Lab fee call: Concerns raised about demanding four campuses and the lab for the lab fee program was too much. Keeping a high number skews toward large existing collaborating units.
  - ii. Multi-campus research: Glenda Humiston, vice president of UC Agriculture and Natural Resources (ANR), provided an outline of the services and programs that ANR provides. UCORE raised a concern about their funding model, in that they get a large amount from UCOP, and that ANR could be considered an "eleventh campus" due to their size. There was no obvious connection with the Senate and it was expressed that there should be better communication and dissemination. VCORED Traina stated that there is an organization like ANR in every state, and it is part of the "Land Grant" aspect of the institution. The UC does not utilize ANR and agricultural experiment stations as well as other states do, and there is a lot of money involved that faculty should take advantage of.

II. Vice Chair's Report

- a. Vice Chair Nicholson reported on the Chancellor's Office undergoing assessment in April, which may have implications for research. There was an "Assessment as Research" symposium this month. Sociology has been added to the schedule for program review.

III. Consent Calendar

- a. The March 15, 2016 meeting agenda were approved as presented.
- b. The February 9, 2016 meeting minutes were approved as presented.

IV. Organized Research Unit (ORU) policy

- a. Chair Gopinathan found a policy at UC Office of the President from 1993, UC San Diego had a good policy, which VCORED Traina has used. ORU policies serve as a flow chart and summary, but are not extensive policy. A flow chart or summary could be crafted of such policies, rather than re-invent a new policy. The second concern was the need for a different “Center” policy. Centers can be used for everything not related to research and use ORUs for everything else.

V. Research Development Services (RDS) – Consultation with RDS Director Susan Carter

- a. Change has grown out from the workforce planning, staffing projections, and the current level of research development. With the needs within the Office of Research (OoR), current resources are being used more strategically. Some of the work they do would be done more efficiently within the schools, as they have access to information about current research funding that RDS does not. VCORED states that the staff can be within OoR or in the schools, but if they are to be in the OoR, they must have the support staff. If they are in the schools, there should be a dotted line to the OoR for reporting and uniformity of behavior. School of Engineering and School of Natural Sciences have positions in their workforce plans. Chair asked if it would be worth using the RDS website as a central information source. VCORED Traina stated that the Deans would be creating a “concierge” position within each of the schools as the point of contact between what the school can do and what RDS would be better suited to handle. RDS is working with Sponsored Projects Office and the schools staff to create a single website as a portal for grant development. RDS is also starting quarterly meetings of everyone involved in the process. A member stated that there was no faculty consultation about what kind of help they would like to receive, instead, they were given a pre-selected set of choices. Also, young faculty have been directed to Health Sciences Research Institute (HSRI) by senior faculty. The member has been very satisfied working with RDS. Chair Gopinathan asked what funding comes back to ORUs. VCORED Traina stated that no indirect cost return.

Chair Gopinathan will send a memo to the schools, Office of Research, and to Division Council, requesting more transparent communication from the Deans and VCORED of planning for the changes to grant support infrastructure on campus in relation to strategic workforce planning and the increased staff requirements being projected for 2020.

VI. Senate Awards

- a. Call was made in February, with a deadline of March 28<sup>th</sup>. Chair Gopinathan would like to split the CoR committee into two groups, one for each award.

VII. Search Waivers and Postdoctoral Appointments

- a. Chair Gopinathan supports the search waiver memo, and offered the committee opportunity to discuss. There were no comments.

Chair Gopinathan will draft a response in relation to the limited submissions memo that CoR feels strongly that the school-level input is necessary and that faculty involvement in the process is absolutely critical, also noting that the entire timeline has been moved forward to accommodate these extra two weeks of school review.

VIII. Other Business

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:16 am.

Attest:

Ajay Gopinathan, COR Chair