

**Committee on Research (COR)**  
**Wednesday, March 22, 2017**  
**11:00-12:00 PM KL 362**

Pursuant to call, the Committee on Research met at 11:00 AM on March 22, 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. UCORP Meeting – February 13, 2017**

- i.** Assembly Bill 1887, signed by the Governor in September 2016, prohibits a state agency and the Legislature from requiring its employees to travel to states that discriminate on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expressions. This prohibition also applies to the University of California, the Board of Regents, and the California State University. Efforts are now underway to establish standards of practices for using alternative, non-state funds if a faculty member must travel to one of these states.
- ii.** A call for a white paper is being issued regarding UC's relationship with the national laboratories. Before bidding to renew its management contract for the labs, UCOP would be required to outline general policies on what they would or would not do in their relationship with a laboratory and describe the benefits they are receiving through this relationship. The draft call was distributed to the appropriate Senate committee that addresses national laboratory issues for review.
- iii.** Controlled Substances policy. Such a policy would require that staff with access to certain chemicals undergo mandatory criminal background checks. UCORP has asked for clarity on whether this policy includes faculty. It does not appear as if this process mandated for faculty. There is a concern (arising from an incident at UC Davis) that information about faculty would be released without their permission in order to pursue such background checks. Another concern is that undocumented students working in laboratories might be placed at risk if their personal information is shared without their consent.
- iv.** Annual laboratory fees research program. This program funds graduate students from the UCs who work with the national laboratories. The request for proposals will be issued on March 23 and letters of intent are due on June 1.
- v.** Multicampus research units (MRU). Some units have not been reviewed in several years. UCOP has contacted those units that lack systemwide funding and asked if they wish to be reviewed so as to be considered for renewed MRU status. Just four out of the fifteen units elected to maintain their status despite the absence of UCOP funding. The remainder of the units opted to dissolve or convert into Organized Research Units. UCOP encouraged the idea of having MRUs that do not receive systemwide funding to be reviewed by their home campuses. UCORP disagreed with this approach and stated that MRUs should be reviewed at the systemwide level, as these units contribute across the UC system. Moreover, UCORP pointed out that even though some MRUs are not

receiving UCOP funding, they do receive funding from other systemwide sources and therefore should be reviewed in the appropriate, systemwide manner.

- vi. Collective Excellence document. This document is intended to provide extra guidance to review committees beyond what is listed in APM 210 regarding the varied ways in which faculty contribute to the university research mission. UCAP has instructed its members to circulate the draft document to their campus CAPs.
- b. UCORP Meeting – March 13, 2017
- i. UCORP was informed that an increase in the indirect cost rate for funding from California state agencies will rise to 40% over time. Waivers will be handled by each campus Chancellor.
  - ii. The Presidential Export Control policy has been distributed to the campuses for review. It will be placed on the April 5 COR meeting agenda.
  - iii. The aforementioned call for a white paper regarding the UC's relationship with the national laboratories was issued.
  - iv. UCORP agreed to take the lead on reviewing three MRUs that still receive direct systemwide funding due to their status as MRUs. One of these, the UC Observatories, will not be reviewed until 2019, but the other two (one of which is the cancer center managed by UCOP) will be reviewed next year, with UCORP leading the review process. Controls will be put in place to ensure that the directors and staff of these MRUs cannot inappropriately bias the review process. (This is of particular concern for the cancer center.) UCORP will request an annual report from those unfunded MRUs that want to maintain their status. (According to policy, these MRUs should have been conducting annual reporting already, but there is no record of them doing so.) Annual report templates were drafted and final reports from the MRUs are due to UCORP in June.
  - v. The information on Title IX violations on the UC campuses (that was published in many media outlets) was redacted on a case by case basis by the individual campuses at which the cases occurred. Some individuals have pointed out that the information released about the UCM incidents was not sufficiently redacted to ensure the privacy of all parties involved. Measures will be taken to understand why further redaction was not performed. This information was not released upon the initiative of UCOP, but was required by law due to a request for public information.
  - vi. The Regents will adopt the 20% cap on non-resident undergraduate students. Campuses already at this level, or above, will have their current enrollment percentages frozen.
- c. Division Council meeting – March 16, 2017
- i. UC campuses will be adding 2,500 additional students.
  - ii. The GE program proposal will require an electronic vote of the whole Senate faculty after Senate committees have opined.
  - iii. There are concerns about graduate courses being offered through University Extension without oversight by the Academic Senate. Such courses, to date, have been in areas that are not covered by any current UCM graduate group. GC is investigating these concerns.

- iv. UCAF is examining the UC Anti-Semitism Awareness Act. Both UCAF and FWAF are discussing the various incidences across the UC system of faculty being harassed over their political preferences. Faculty in one particular department at UCSB have received death threats.
- v. CAPRA was asked to consider the idea of the annual rolling over of foundational FTE requests, rather than requiring the regeneration of proposals containing the same rankings each year.
- vi. Division Council endorsed the proposed policy on awarding posthumous degrees and certificates of attendance. The individuals in question must have already advanced to candidacy.
- vii. There is 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. Despite several requests, Senate representation has not been included. Division Council agreed to send a memo to the chair of the systemwide Senate requesting that Senate consultation be sought.

## II. Consent Calendar

- a. **Action:** the March 8, 2017 minutes were approved as presented.
- b. **Action:** the March 22, 2017 agenda was approved as presented.

## III. Senate Awards

- a. COR previously identified members to serve on the award subcommittees to review nominations for the Senate Award for Distinction in Research and the Senate Award for Early Career Research. The deadline for submitting nominations to the Senate office is March 22nd at 5:00 pm.
- b. **Action:** Nomination packages will be submitted to awards subcommittee members on March 23, 2017.

## IV. Purchasing Issues and Effects on Research

- a. COR members agreed to invite the newly-hired Chief Procurement Officer to a future COR meeting, as he may be able to inform the ongoing committee discussion about challenges faculty face with regard to purchasing. The COR member tasked with leading this discussion requested that the issue be taken up at a future meeting.
- b. **Action:** This item was tabled for a future meeting.

## V. Unencumbered Research Funds

- a. Prior to this meeting, Chair Noelle was contacted by a faculty member regarding communication related to his unencumbered research funds. VC-ORED Traina indicated that the staff in the appropriate office made several attempts to contact this faculty member about his funds. They were required to return the funds by a certain date, having received no response. The VC-ORED confirmed that the staff followed proper procedures.
- b. **Action:** By majority vote, COR agreed to send a memo to the appropriate office within ORED, encouraging them to continue contacting faculty members before returning their funds. VC-ORED will advise on the appropriate recipient. Once this memo has been sent, Chair Noelle will respond to the faculty member.

**VI. Campus Review Items**

- a. Committee membership guide. Drafted by the Senate office, this document is intended to establish, for the Merced Division of the Academic Senate, and the larger campus community, a common reference regarding fundamental aspects of Senate committee membership and function. Topics include committee membership, member participation and rights, and the role of committee consultants and guests, including in relation to committee meetings and executive (closed) sessions.
  - i. **Action:** COR members unanimously voted to decline to comment. The Senate Chair will be notified.
  
- b. Proposal to establish five bylaw units in the School of Engineering: Bioengineering, Civil & Environmental Engineering, Management, Materials Science & Engineering, and Mechanical Engineering.
  - i. COR members briefly discussed the proposal's components, including the computer science faculty electing not to form a bylaw unit, the broad campus support for this proposal except for SSHA's concern over the naming of the management unit, and the implications for the formation of future departments, particularly with regard to department chair duties as articulated in APM 245.
  - ii. **Action:** COR members unanimously voted to endorse the proposal. The Senate Chair will be notified.
  
- c. Proposal to create a major in Critical Race & Ethnic Studies
  - i. **Action:** COR members unanimously voted to decline to comment. The Senate Chair will be notified.
  
- d. Proposal to create an English Honors program
  - i. **Action:** COR members unanimously voted to decline to comment. The Senate Chair will be notified.
  
- e. Proposal to create a General Education program
  - i. COR members discussed the undergraduate research component of the proposal. The committee approved of the idea of communicating to freshmen the benefits of conducting research, but expressed concern that overseeing undergraduate student researchers in their laboratories may necessitate additional resources for faculty – both time and money. COR members also thought it important that the future program be provided with the budget requested in the proposal.
  - ii. **Action:** COR members unanimously agreed to continue this discussion via email. Since April 5 is the deadline for comments to the Senate Chair, members were asked to be prepared to finalize a memo at the April 5 meeting.
  
- f. Proposal to create a minor in Management Analytics and Decision-Making
  - i. **Action:** Due to time constraints, COR members unanimously voted to table this item until the April 5 meeting.

**VII. Systemwide Review Item**

- a. Presidential Policy on Unmanned Aircraft Systems
  - i. COR members noticed that there are two bodies that appear to have the authority to review and approve applications, one at the systemwide level and one at each campus. Committee members wondered whether individuals could initiate applications with the systemwide authority and the local authority simultaneously and whether they are allowed to pursue an application with one authority after receiving a denial from the other.
  - ii. **Action:** COR members unanimously endorsed the proposal, but in its memo to the Senate Chair, will request clarification on the application process.

**VIII. Upcoming Business**

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

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:00 PM.

Attest:

David Noelle, COR Chair