

Committee on Research (COR)
Wednesday, April 19, 2017
11:00-12:00 PM KL 362

Pursuant to call, the Committee on Research met at 11:00 AM on April 19, 2017 in Room 362 of the Kolligian Library, Chair David Noelle presiding.

I. Composite Benefit Rates discussion

Guests: Controller & AVC Michael Riley, Business & Financial Services
Cost Standards and Policy Analyst Mark Perez, Business & Financial Services
Vice Chancellor for Business & Administrative Services Michael Reese
Provost/EVC Tom Peterson

Provost/EVC Peterson thanked VC Reese and AVC Riley for their work on the implementation of composite benefit rates (CBR) within the framework of UC Path.

AVC Riley summarized the information contained in the PowerPoint slides that were distributed to COR members prior to this meeting. He stated that each campus will adopt the CBR model as they transition to UC Path. For UCM, that change is expected to occur December 1, 2017. In developing the model presented in the PowerPoint slides, Analyst Perez stated that he took into account the Provost's multi-year faculty hiring plan.

VC-ORED Traina reminded attendees that there was an attempt to implement CBR at UCM in 2009, but this initiative was delayed. He explained that CBR will be beneficial for faculty members in that they will be able to accurately predict the cost of benefits when creating a grant proposal budget. In this way, CBR will simplify the grant budget process pre-award and bring some financial stability post-award. The CAPRA representative inquired about hiring postdocs above the prescribed rate, and the VC-ORED replied that there is a process whereby the rate can be adjusted over time.

In response to an inquiry from a COR member concerning potential changes to faculty benefits, analyst Perez stated that (1) faculty summer salary will use the rate for the limited benefits eligibility employee group category and (2) all faculty benefits will remain intact. There will be no changes to employee benefits; what will change is how the campus assesses and charges benefits to project sponsors.

A COR member expressed concern with the recent rise in minimal postdoc salary and benefits. AVC Riley replied that the CBR mitigation program is intended to defray such additional costs in the short term.

A COR member inquired about the legality of placing government agency provided funds into an expense pool. Analyst Perez emphasized that funds will not be swept from faculty's individual projects. VC-ORED Traina pointed out that the proposed process works the same as indirect cost return.

A COR member questioned the slide that showed some groups as having a net negative impact as a result of the implementation of CBR. Analyst Perez stated that in problematic situations, the CBR rate would be adjusted.

A COR member inquired into how increased employee numbers affect CBR, and AVC Riley replied that rates would not adjust too rapidly. Furthermore, changes in staffing levels and any additional shifts will be accounted for in a future rate analysis.

AVC Riley ended the presentation by stating his team is currently in stage 4 (consultation with key stakeholders) of the six-stage implementation process.

ACTION: COR members to email any comments on CBR to the committee analyst to be aggregated for further discussion, with the goal of communicating the sense of the committee to Division Council. Also, the committee analyst will obtain a specific implementation timeline from the CBR team.

II. Consent Calendar

- a. Action:** the April 5, 2017 meeting minutes were approved as presented.
- b. Action:** the April 19, 2017 agenda was approved as presented.

III. Chair's Report

- a.** Due to time constraints, the chair's report (April 6, 2017 Division Council meeting updates) was not provided.
- b. Action:** The chair's report will be added to a future meeting agenda.

IV. Campus and Systemwide Review Items

- a.** Due to time constraints, COR did not address the various review items on the agenda.
- b. Action:** Chair Noelle will email COR members with a list of the pressing review items, along with a request for input on whether COR needs to opine.

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

Attest:

David Noelle, COR Chair