

**COMMITTEE ON RESEARCH (COR)****Monday, September 13, 2021****2:30 – 4:00 pm****Zoom****Phone: 1-669-900-6833, Meeting ID 209 228 4369****Documents available at: UCM Box CoR AY 21-22**

- I. Chair's Report – *Chair Sexton* **2:30 – 2:50**
- A. Welcome and introductions
  - B. Guides to Committee Membership and Executive Session
  - C. CoR AY 21-22 goals
    - i. Developing a policy on establishment of Centers.
    - ii. Continuing advocacy for research infrastructure, i.e. research buildings and chemical storage.
    - iii. Advocating for increased lab safety and increased efficiency and effectiveness in safety compliance. Reviewing University safety procedures and execution of policy in light of a recent accident and subsequent shutdown.  
CoR Chair Sexton met with Senate Chair Westerling and Interim VCORED Zatz on September 2, 2021. It was agreed that Chair Sexton and VCORED Zatz will draft a charge for an advisory committee on lab safety. CoR will review and approve the charge. The draft charge will then be transmitted to Divisional Council for endorsement.
    - iv. Advocating for improved procurement procedures.
    - v. Advocating for improved grant administration.
    - vi. Continue to work with and provide feedback to SPO.
    - vii. Continued advocacy for additional funding for instrumentation and the annual Senate faculty grants program. If funds allow, then CoR will also advocate for more funding for conceptualization grants but CoR does suggest waiting one year to see if funds allocated by the Interim VCORED in AY 20-21 were well spent. Should CoR draft a memo to the administration to report on the use of increased funds and interest in more of these funds going forward?
    - v. Continued advocacy for ORUs, specifically a) letting ORUs assist faculty with grant submissions so that faculty have another option besides SPO and b) ORUs receiving more indirect costs.
  - D. Campus and systemwide review items. Reviewers will be assigned alphabetically by last name.
  - E. Meeting with Senate leadership on August 26
  - F. Divisional Council meeting September 2

- II. Consent Calendar
  - A. Today's agenda
- III. Periodic Review Oversight Committee (PROC) **2:50 – 2:55**  
 A representative from CoR is requested to serve on PROC in AY 21-22.  
**Action:** CoR to select a representative.
- IV. Policy on the Establishment, Disestablishment, and Review of Centers – *Chair Sexton* **2:55 – 3:20**

**Background:** in AY 2014-2015, the then EVC/Provost drafted a policy on the establishment of Centers. The draft policy was reviewed by the Senate and comments were transmitted to the EVC/Provost. No action was taken.

On August 24, 2021, the CoR Chair met with Interim VCORED Zatz and Assistant EVC/Provost Martin where it was agreed that CoR would form a subcommittee of members to revise the draft 2014 policy. This subcommittee would include Interim VCORED Zatz and Assistant EVC/Provost Martin. Once drafted, the policy will be transmitted to the administration for review. CoR will take into account their feedback and a revised policy will be transmitted to Division Council for review. The policy will ultimately be issued for campus wide review and comments. This process should be concluded by the end of the fall 2021 semester.

**Action:** CoR to select three members to serve on the Centers Policy Subcommittee.

- V. Conflict of Interest Policy – *Chair Sexton* **3:20 – 3:30**  
 CoR's conflict of interest policy is located here. Each Senate committee is asked to review their policy and determine if revisions are necessary.

**Action:** CoR to review the conflict of interest policy and make any suggested edits.

- VI. Campus Research Issues – *Chair Sexton* **3:30 – 4:00**  
 On August 26, 2021, CoR Chair Sexton met with Senate leadership to discuss CoR's potential role in addressing current campus research impact issues such as difficulties with procurement, research grant administration, and research resource access.

Senate leadership suggested that CoR draft a memo (with input from the Senate Chair if requested) to the administration that articulates the major issues with the campus research enterprise, namely, lack of transparency, lack of accountability, and lack of responsiveness. The Senate Chair also suggested that the memo could be co-signed by the chairs of the Senate Committee on Faculty Welfare & Academic Freedom (FWAF) and Graduate Council (GC). The memo should be transmitted to Divisional Council for its endorsement before ultimately being transmitted to the EVC/Provost. If

it would help, the EVC/Provost's office could, as a first step, conduct a faculty survey on the impacts of the campus research enterprise difficulties on faculty research.

**Action:** CoR to discuss the issue moving forward, including the necessity of a faculty survey or other recommended actions.

VII. Informational Items

A. Systemwide Senate guidelines for Fall re-opening

The guidelines were sent to the UC Chancellors in May. They were drafted by Academic Council and endorsed by President Drake.

B. UC Merced's Audit Report No. M21A001- Laboratory Safety Compliance Internal Audit and EVC/Provost's memo.