Committee on Research (COR)
Wednesday, January 25, 2017
11:00-12:00 PM KL 362
Documents available at UCM BOX

Pursuant to call, the Committee on Research met at 11:08 AM on January 25, 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. Division Council – January 19, 2017
            i.   Systemwide Academic Council voted in favor of a resolution to raise undergraduate tuition.
            ii.   Systemwide Academic Council voted in favor of a resolution against the establishment of a limit on the number of non-resident students enrolled.
            iii. A call for a systemwide vision statement for 2040 has been made. Campuses are expected to make their contributions to this document, outlining proposed services and associated costs, by March.
            iv.   There have been problems reported concerning the move from Blue Shield to Anthem/Blue Cross insurance. Faculty are encouraged to contact "benefits@ucmerced.edu" for assistance.
            v.   The UC medical centers are predicting that the nation will move toward supporting only a small number of large healthcare networks. The UC is examining the potential of transforming UC medical services into one of these major networks. It is unclear how this would develop, but conversations are underway.
            vi.   The Presidential Postdoctoral Fellow program is being reassessed. The program is intended to contribute to diversity in the faculty population by offering incentives to hire select postdoctoral fellows into faculty positions. The effectiveness of this program has been questioned, however, as only a small number of participants have ended up as UC faculty members.
            vii. The number of undergraduate student applicants across the system continues to grow.
            viii. Campus-specific issues that were discussed include:
                  1. Graduate Council is preparing a revised policy on the awarding of posthumous degrees.
                  2. A new software application that will unify undergraduate and graduate CRF management has been identified and evaluated. It currently awaits funding. The system is expected to be in place within a year.
                  3. A proposal was made to establish a new UCM Academic Senate committee called the Reserve (Shadow) Committee on Academic Personnel (CAP). This Reserve CAP would be populated by full professors with academic personnel experience. The new committee would be activated to review personnel actions for current and recent CAP members. It would also address appeals of academic personnel decisions.

II.   Consent Calendar
   a. The January 11, 2017 Minutes were approved as presented.
   b. The January 25, 2017 Agenda was approved as presented.

III.   Sierra Nevada Research Institute (SNRI) ORU Review Committee
   a. VC-ORED Traina informed the committee that former Executive Vice Chancellor and current emeritus Keith Alley has agreed to represent the School of Natural Sciences on the SNRI ORU review committee, joining Paul Brown from SSHA and Marcello Kallmann from SOE. VC-ORED Traina indicated that he would also be contacting the external review member to confirm their continued availability. The review is expected to be complete by the end of the current semester.

IV.   Survey of Faculty Concerning Staff Support for Extramural Funding Efforts
   a. COR reviewed a draft report summarizing survey results, prepared by member Saha and lightly edited by Chair Noelle. The Chair asked the committee membership if VC-ORED Traina should recuse himself during the committee's discussion of the report, but the committee had no objection to VC-ORED Traina contributing to the discussion.

   In general, the membership voiced support for the draft report. A member communicated a perception that information was not appropriately shared between the units that handle grant proposals. VC-ORED Traina replied that the "Cayuse" software system is used for proposal submissions, and recently, it was made mandatory that all proposal information go through the this system. Cayuse is available to units across campus.

   Further discussion raised the question of whether additional emphasis could be included in the report on post-award management. Member Saha would be asked to review the survey results and extract any appropriate information on this subject.

   To assist the workforce planning workgroup, VC-ORED Traina requested that COR determine what level of support faculty truly need, and what they expect and want, acknowledging that the wants may not be financially feasible. Chair Noelle suggested that COR could not answer the question of what critical needs the faculty have, as this was not adequately addressed in the survey. VC-ORED Traina replied that the survey raw data and summary would be of great help. The COR Analyst would remove any references to individual names from the raw data, using only de-identified place-holders in their stead.

V.   Center for the Humanities ORU Proposal
   a. This item will be included in a future agenda.

VI.   Purchasing and Research – Ramen Saha
   a. This item will be included in a future agenda.

VII.   ORU Proposal Initiation Issues
   a. This item will be included in a future agenda.

VIII. **Identify AY 2016-2017 High Priority Issues for COR**
   a. This item will be included in a future agenda.

IX. **Systemwide Review Items**
   a. **Proposed Revisions to Senate Regulation 630.D**
      i. This item will be included in a future agenda.

X. **Upcoming Business**
   a. Future Funding of Senate Faculty Grants Program
   b. Faculty Start-Up Funds & Other Campus Sources of Research Support
   c. ORU Proposal - Center for Human Adaptive Systems and Environments (CHASE)
   d. Blum Center reorganization
   e. Administering the Senate Faculty Grants Program
   f. Monitoring Progress of the 2020 Project

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:04 PM.

Attest:
David Noelle, COR Chair