

**Committee on Research (COR)**  
**Minutes of Meeting**  
**January 14, 2015**

Pursuant to call, the Committee on Research met at 3:00 pm on January 14, 2015 in Room 362 of the Kolligian Library, Chair David C. Noelle presiding.

I. Chair's Report

Chair Noelle informed the members that UCORP's first meeting of the spring term was cancelled, but the main topic of email discussion was the proposed bill in the legislature to remove the autonomy of the Regents over the UC system. Such a removal requires changing the California constitution. Legislators are concerned over tuition hikes, but UCOP's position is that the Regents' oversight over UC should be protected.

II. Consent Calendar

**ACTION:** The December 17 meeting minutes were approved as presented.

III. Reviewing CRU Bylaws

Prior to this meeting, the manager of the Spatial Analysis & Research Center (SpARC) contacted COR Chair Noelle to inquire whether COR should review the center's bylaws. COR members discussed the request at the December 17 meeting and concluded that the current cycle of initial CRU/ORU establishment and subsequent five-year review gives COR ample opportunity to review and comment on bylaws. In the December 17 meeting, COR members suggested that annual reviews of SpARC bylaws be completed by the center's Steering Committee who is in the best position to judge the appropriateness of SpARC's bylaws. VCR Traina pointed out that he requests that all research units submit annual reports. COR members agreed that these annual reports would provide sufficient information about the units' activities. Shortly after the December 17 meeting, a memo was drafted

from COR to SpARC, detailing COR's response. At today's meeting, COR members reviewed and approved the memo.

**ACTION:** COR analyst to send memo to SpARC staff.

#### IV. Campus Review Items

--revised proposal from SSHA to establish a minor in Community Research and Service. COR endorsed the proposal last year but other Senate committees had several concerns. SSHA has submitted a revised proposal based on these comments. COR members discussed the revised proposal and echoed Undergraduate Council's concerns regarding faculty teaching credit and resources. COR supports the concept of the minor, but believes that the revised proposal does not sufficiently address the resource challenges surrounding the delivery of the minor. COR members also noted that the revised proposal's provision of offering an unrestricted faculty support stipend may violate section 662-16 of the APM, particularly if the stipend may be taken as a salary augmentation.

**ACTION:** COR analyst to send a draft response memo to the COR chair for approval. The revised memo will be circulated among committee members for a vote. The final memo will be submitted to Division Council by January 26.

--Graduate Council's GC proposed revisions to procedures for submitting graduate proposals.

COR members discussed and endorsed the proposed revisions.

**ACTION:** COR analyst will draft a brief response memo and add to the January 28 COR agenda for a broader committee vote.

--Establishment of Centers.

COR members discussed the policy recently drafted by the Provost/EVC on the establishment of centers. COR is concerned that the document does not recognize that Centers are CRUs which fall under the Senate's previously

approved policies created in conjunction with administrative consultation during the last academic year. COR requests that the Provost/EVC suggest revisions to these previously approved policies so that the Senate and Administration can establish one comprehensive policy, rather than two.

**ACTION:** COR analyst to send a draft response memo to the COR chair for approval. The revised memo will be circulated among committee members for a vote. The final memo will be placed on the January 28 COR agenda for broader committee input.

V. Proposed Bylaws for Library and Scholarly Communication Committee

In fall 2014, COR submitted a proposal to Division Council to establish a standing Senate committee on library and scholarly communication. Division Council expressed concern over lack of resources and staff for such a committee. COR submitted a response, assuaging the resource and staffing concerns and emphasizing the need and timeliness for a standing committee devoted to library issues, in light of the hiring of a new university librarian and of the crisis of the lack of appropriate publications for faculty usage. Division Council submitted a response requesting that COR propose bylaws and committee membership.

COR members reviewed and discussed the memo to Division Council that details the proposed bylaws and membership for a standing Senate committee on library and scholarly communication. COR members voted to approve the memo.

**Action:** COR analyst to send the COR memo to Division Council with a request that it be added to the January 21 Division Council agenda.

VI. Faculty Research Grants

Prior to this meeting, the committee analyst compiled the responses received from prior faculty awardees of GRC/COR grants and the funding levels of other UC campuses for their Senate grants. Based on this information, a COR member drafted a graph to illustrate the declining trend of funding for

Merced Senate faculty grants in relation to our growth in faculty numbers. This data is included in the draft memo from COR to Provost/EVC Peterson to illustrate the importance of increased funding of the Senate faculty grants program.

COR members also discussed how best to use the anecdotal information received from the survey that was conducted of previous faculty awardees. Members previously agreed that the responses should be divided into four main categories and analyzed further: 1) number of extramural awards received as a result of the Senate faculty grants, 2) number of publications generated from the grants, 3) number of presentations delivered due to the grants, and 4) number of graduate students supported. This data is also included in the memo to the Provost/EVC as well as a few anecdotes from faculty members about the awards' positive impact on their research.

COR's draft memo to the Provost/EVC notes that UCM's per capita funding rate is not significantly below that of other campuses, however, other campuses have more funding sources such as departmental funding and bridge funding. It is quite challenging for UCM faculty members to obtain large extramural awards so these Senate faculty grants can make a significant difference to faculty members' research programs. The memo also mentions that UCM faculty members do not have the safety net that exists at the larger, well-funded campuses. Also, other campuses distribute their funds in different ways. At UCM, some amount of funding gets distributed to school deans and graduate groups, but that is not sufficient to cover the research needs addressed by programs at other campuses, such as bridge funding. A lack of funds for research support can contribute to a decrease in faculty morale, a fact also noted in the letter.

COR members reviewed and discussed the draft memo. Members agreed that a note about the survey and methods should be included in the memo, as well as a sentence referring to the Provost/EVC to an appendix to read all the comments submitted by faculty members on the positive impact of these Senate grants on their research programs.

**ACTION:** COR analyst to revise memo to include the aforementioned items and send to the COR member who took the lead on drafting. The revised memo will be circulated among committee members for a vote and the final version will be submitted to the Provost/EVC. After submission, COR will turn its attention to drafting the call for proposals for AY 14-15.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:30 pm.

Attest: David C. Noelle, COR Chair

Minutes prepared by: Simrin Takhar, Senate Analyst