Committee on Research (CoR)
Minutes of Meeting
January 28, 2021

Pursuant to call, the Committee on Research met at 1:00 – 2:30 pm on January 28, 2021, via Zoom. Chair Kara McCloskey presiding.

I.   Chair's Report – *Kara McCloskey*
   A.   January 25 Divisional Council meeting
      i.   Divisional Council heard updates from EVC/Provost Camfield on fall 2021 operations. The campus anticipates holding in-person instruction assuming there are no further outbreaks of the coronavirus.
      ii.   Academic Council is reviewing the Online Undergraduate Degree Task Force report which contained three distinct policy options that Divisional Council discussed at its November 13 meeting. Option 2 is favored: UC-Quality Remote Degree would support the formation of entirely remote degree programs but require that programs meet all ordinary expectations for a UC degree.
      iii.   Systemwide is discussing a proposal about incorporating ethnic studies into A-G requirements.
      iv.   Divisional Council members discussed UCM's low research funding in comparison to other institutions.
      v.   Divisional Council members discussed the systemwide faculty salary scales task force report.
   B.   CoR has received 58 proposals in response to the annual Senate faculty grants call: 14 from SoE, 22 from SNS, and 22 from SSHA. Chair McCloskey informed CoR members that the administration is still working on a solution about whether to extend the grants awarded to faculty last year (several of those faculty were unable to use their grant funding from the Senate faculty grants program due to the pandemic). After today's meeting, the proposals will be forwarded to CoR members for review together with instructions for reviewing and ranking the proposals. CoR should expect to review and select awardees at the February 11 committee meeting.

      Interim VCORED Zatz reminded CoR members they will also be reviewing the conceptualization grant proposals that were received in response to the call issued from ORED. The call was drafted in response to the Chancellor's fall semester announcement that he is allocating one-time institutional funding for conceptualization and instrumentation grants. CoR will discuss the process for the instrumentation grants later in today's meeting.

II. Consultation with AVC Debbie Motton

A. Foreign Influence update

Faculty and researchers need to be as transparent as possible when they submit their documentation for proposals to the federal government with respect to both paid and unpaid foreign affiliations. Many Chinese universities have been added into the federal government's restricted list. If faculty members and researchers are considering a collaboration with universities in China, they are urged to contact Interim VCORED Zatz.

B. UC Research Data and Tangible Materials draft policy

CoR will discuss this policy later in the agenda. AVC Motton explained that the policy has been in the works for many years. However, it has taken on more urgency as the UC seeks to shield its data assets from loss and security breaches. A main factor explaining the urgency of this policy is the UCSF data breach last year.

C. UC Virtual Research Symposium summary

The symposium was held this week and included a session with officials from NIH such as Dr. Michael Lauer. Officials emphasized the fact that there is no such thing as over-disclosure and urged researchers to err on the side of transparency. The federal government focuses on individual faculty members and researchers with regard to criminal activity rather than inflicting punishment upon institutions unless the institutions are covering up any wrongdoing. Thus far, the criminal charges that have been filed for wrongdoing have been against individual faculty members and researchers. No changes in this policy is expected under the new Biden administration.

D. Presidential Memorandum on United States Government-Supported Research and Development National Security Policy

The memo highlights the recommendations from The National Science and Technology Council Joint Committee on the Research Environment, Subcommittee on Research Security. The UC is reviewing the recommendations and has found that the system is already doing approximately half of what is contained in the recommendations. Policy changes may be made at both the systemwide and campus levels. UC is currently determining what type of compliance the system has to have according to the recommendations.

AVC Motton announced that she will be leaving UCM on April 1. She accepted a new position as the Executive Director of Research Policy Analysis and Coordination at UCOP. Interim VCORED Zatz will inform CoR members which staff members in ORED will be handling AVC Motton's duties on a temporary basis. Zatz will continue attending CoR meetings in her role as an ex-officio committee member and will also provide updates to CoR that are usually provided by AVC Motton.

III. Consultation with Interim VCORED Zatz
   A. Limited submissions
      Interim VCORED Zatz emphasized the need for consistency in who reviews these proposals. The goal is to make the limited submissions a real competition.
   B. ORED improvements
      Interim VCORED Zatz asked CoR members if they have any input on the various improvements made to ORED. CoR members provided some feedback on the process for re-submissions and on responsiveness. Interim VCORED Zatz confirmed that SPO does issue surveys to collect faculty feedback on their experiences. She asked CoR members to send her any additional input on SPO or any of ORED's operations.

IV. Consent Calendar
   A. Today's agenda
   B. Draft December 7 meeting minutes

   Action: the Consent Calendar was approved as presented

V. CoR/Sponsored Projects Office (SPO) Working Group
   In fall semester, CoR established a working group with SPO to facilitating feedback between faculty, SPO staff, and research administrators, on the efficiency of the pre-award process from development and submission of a proposal to award acceptance to award set up.

   Per the Working Group's charge, CoR must identify two representatives to serve on the Working Group. One representative has been identified (Tao Ye) and one more representative is needed. The Working Group will begin meeting once the membership is complete.

   Chair McCloskey volunteered to serve on the Working Group with member Ye.

   Action: the committee analyst will inform the SPO director that CoR has identified both of its required number of representatives to serve on the CoR/SPO Working Group.

VI. Instrumentation Funding
   In the fall semester, the Chancellor and EVC/Provost issued an announcement in which they shared their decision to allocate additional, one-time institutional funding of

$200,000 for AY20-21 to support instrumentation grants. (The same amount was allocated to support conceptualization grants as stated earlier under agenda item III.)

At the December 7 meeting, lead reviewers (Chair McCloskey, Vice Chair Sexton, and member Ye) agreed to write a summary of the results of the faculty survey on core facilities that was issued in fall semester in collaboration with ORED. That summary will be shared with CoR. The final summary, together with the survey results, will then be shared with the Senate Chair and Vice Chair.

Action: the lead reviewers of the survey will draft a summary of the survey results to share with CoR at a future meeting.

CoR members pointed out that the survey was intended to be information-gathering on what faculty members want in terms of core facilities. It was not meant to be a guideline for the campus to purchase certain types of instrumentation. In addition, CoR is not in a position to know how much the instrumentation costs and therefore cannot properly advise on the subject. A CoR member agreed and stated that a separate, robust, application process will be needed for faculty to identify their needs and request instrumentation.

CoR members agreed that, similar to the process for conceptualization grants, CoR and the Interim VCORED will draft a call for instrumentation grant proposals that will be issued to faculty.

Action: CoR Vice Chair Sexton and member Ye will draft a call for instrumentation proposals to be shared with CoR at a future meeting. That draft call will then be shared with the Senate Chair and Vice Chair before being issued to the faculty from ORED. CoR members will review the proposals.

VII.   Systemwide Review Items
   A.   Proposed Presidential Policy University of California Research Data and Tangible Research Materials

   The proposed presidential policy addresses issues concerning the ownership of data and tangible materials generated during the course of UC research. The draft policy states that the UC Regents own Research Materials and Tangible Research Materials. The policy draft also calls upon campus leadership and its researchers to work in partnership to manage, retain, preserve, protect, access and share Research Data and Tangible Research Materials.

A CoR member volunteered to lead the review.

Action: The lead reviewer's comments will be discussed via email. CoR's memo is due to the Senate Chair by 5:00 pm on Friday, February 12.

B. Proposed revisions to Presidential Policy UC-PS-20-0489-BUS-43 Purchases of Goods and Services; Supply Chain Management.

UC's new Small Business First Program has been incorporated into BUS-43. Small Business First requires that all applicable purchases for UC campuses (excluding UC Health and Design & Construction) with the annual value of $10,000-$250,000 be awarded to small businesses wherever practicable.

A CoR member volunteered to lead the review.

Action: The lead reviewer's comments will be via email. CoR's memo is due to the Senate Chair by 5:00 pm on Tuesday, February 16.

VIII. Librarians Association of the University of California-Merced (LAUC-M)
A representative from LAUC-M attended the November 30 CoR meeting to share the topics of interest to his committee.

CoR members agreed that the LAUC-M should be invited to one meeting per semester.

Action: the committee analyst will invite the LAUC-M representative to another meeting in spring semester.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:15 pm.

Attest: Kara McCloskey, CoR chair