

**Committee on Research (CoR)**  
**Minutes of Meeting**  
**January 30, 2019**

Pursuant to call, the Committee on Research met at 2:30 pm on January 30, 2019 in Room 362 of the Kolligian Library, Chair Michael Scheibner presiding.

I. Chair's Report

Chair Scheibner welcomed to the committee new member Shilpa Khatri and welcomed again new member Xuecai (Susan) Ge, both in the School of Natural Sciences.

Chair Scheibner then updated CoR members on the January 23 Division Council meeting. The main topics of discussion included the impacts of the federal government shutdown on the university, including faculty members' federal grants and student visas; UCOP's long-range planning initiative for which they are soliciting from each campus a list of institutional initiatives (this issue is included on today's agenda under Informational Items); results of the staff campus climate survey; the 2.7% increase in the state budget to the UC; and the proposed UC transfer admission guarantee (this will be added to a future CoR agenda, as Division Council has issued it for Senate review).

II. Consent Calendar

**Action:** today's agenda, the meeting minutes from December 12, 2018 and January 16, 2019, and the Call for Nominations for the Senate awards for Early Career Research and Distinguished Research were approved as presented.

III. ORU Policy

Chair Scheibner summarized for CoR members the few suggested edits he and committee member Moran made since the last meeting. The suggested revision relates to the review committee meeting with the VC-ORED and the lead discussant on CoR. Should CoR as a whole review the report so that the CoR lead discussant can relay the committee's comments to the review committee and VC-ORED? CoR members agreed that CoR as a committee should review the report together with the committee's lead discussant.

**Action:** chair and analyst will edit the draft again and distribute to CoR members (including the VC-ORED) for review and approval. The approved draft will be transmitted to Division Council for review and approval.

## IV. Limited Submission Procedures

VC-ORED Traina stated that he revised the procedures to take into account suggestions from CoR at a previous meeting.

**Action:** VC-ORED to send the updated procedures to the committee analyst for distribution to CoR members. The revised procedures will be added to a future meeting agenda for review and approval.

## V. Faculty Grant Proposals

CoR received 42 proposals: 18 SNS, 7 SOE, 17 SSHA. The total amount of funds requested is \$273,152.84.

CoR members briefly discussed the criteria for evaluation of the grants, including potential issues surrounding the main criterion of time since last award, and ways to ensure the equitable number of awarded proposals across the three Schools.

**Action:** CoR to form a subcommittee (not including the three members who submitted grant proposals) and a meeting of the subcommittee will be scheduled for next week to plan how to evaluate the grant proposals. The committee as a whole (the three aforementioned committee members will recuse) will conduct final rankings and will select awardees at the February 13 CoR meeting.

## VI. Campus Review Items

- Proposal from SSHA to change Social Sciences and Management unit's name to Economics & Business Management.

Prior to this meeting, the preliminary comments from CoR's lead reviewer were reviewed by the committee.

**Action:** CoR members approved the memo. The memo will be transmitted to the Senate Chair by his deadline of February 13.

- L(P)SOE working title change to Teaching Professor

Prior to this meeting, the preliminary comments from CoR's lead reviewer were reviewed by the committee.

**Action:** CoR members approved the memo. The memo will be transmitted to the Senate Chair by his deadline of February 13.

- Proposal to create a Psychology honors program

**Action:** CoR endorsed the proposal. The committee’s memo will be transmitted to the Senate Chair by his deadline of February 22.

- Proposal to create a B.S. in Economics

**Action:** The Senate Chair will be informed that CoR decline to opine.

- Proposed Revisions to Master’s Degree Requirements (Division Regulations)

CoR members viewed the proposal favorably, pointing out that the ability of Master’s students to complete a Master’s degree within one year may lead to two positive outcomes. First, some students may decide to pursue research soon after completing the Master’s degree and therefore may apply to a PhD program either at UC Merced or at another institution. Second, completing a Master’s degree in one year could enable the establishment of exchange programs where students from other countries study at UC Merced for up to one year and return to their home countries with a Master’s degree. The proposed, new requirements may also help graduate programs generate more funds from Master’s students’ tuition, which could be used to support PhD student research, for example, more fellowships

#### VII. Systemwide Review Items

- Second Systemwide Review of Proposed Presidential Policy on Open Access for Theses and Dissertations

**Action:** CoR endorsed the revisions. CoR’s memo will be transmitted to the Senate Chair by his deadline of February 25.

- Revisions to Senate Bylaw 336

In June 2018, the California State Auditor (CSA) released an audit report entitled “The University of California Office of the President: It Must Take Steps to Address Issues With Its Response to Sexual Harassment Complaints.” The report was accepted by President Napolitano, and the Board of Regents has directed the Academic Senate to implement the CSA recommendations by July 2019. The CSA report recommends that the Academic Senate revise its bylaws (i.e., SBL 336) concerning the Committee on Privilege and Tenure procedures for handling disciplinary cases recommends that the Academic Senate revise its bylaws (i.e., SBL 336) concerning the Committee on Privilege and Tenure procedures for handling disciplinary cases.

VC-ORED Traina raised a point that may be relevant, which is NSF’s policy regarding SVSH complains. According to a communication issued at the end of 2018, the NSF has the authority to remove PI status from a faculty member if his/her campus has taken action against them for a SVSH-related complaint.

**Action:** this review item – and the NSF policy summarized by VC-ORED Traina – will be added to the February 13 CoR meeting for further discussion.

- Proposed Revisions to SVSH Academic Frameworks

**Action:** item was tabled for the February 13 CoR meeting.

VIII. Informational Items

- IRDS data related to reaching R1 status. This data was previously shared with Division Council.
- The University of California is currently advocating for long-range budget planning to support its mission. Recently, our EVC/Provost was asked to provide SMART (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant and Time-bound) goals to invest in the next generation of faculty and research at UC Merced. Central to these goals is the University of California's focus on being California's public 'Think and Do' tank, conducting fast-track research to tackle new challenges, facilitating economic and cultural development for all Californians, training the next generation of scholars and innovators, making the UC campuses a first choice for employment, and improving faculty diversity.

The EVC/Provost has asked the faculty to propose institutional-level, SMART initiatives that will help our campus meet these challenges over the coming years and accelerate our progress on the path to R1 status.

Chair Scheibner began drafting a list of suggested initiatives for CoR's review. Since Senate committees' input is due to the EVC/Provost by February 6, CoR members are asked to provide input on Chair Scheibner's list by February 2.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:00 pm.

Attest: Michael Scheibner, CoR chair