

Committee on Research (CoR)
Minutes of Meeting
October 10, 2018

Pursuant to call, the Committee on Research met at 2:00 pm on October 10, 2018 in Room 250 of the Student Services Building, Chair Michael Scheibner presiding.

I. Consultation with Director of Space Planning & Analysis

Director of Space Planning & Analysis Maggie Saunders attended today's CoR meeting to clarify questions about the campus space allocation plan that was issued to the campus on September 27.

She announced that she has thus far received no significant requests for changes to the two new laboratory buildings. She has received comments with regard to who will occupy computational building 2B, and comments about backfill space for COB 1, COB 2, and the relocation of some SSHA faculty. For these issues – as well as for all comments she receives on the space allocation plan – Director Saunders will develop options to present to the interim Provost/EVC, deans, and Senate leadership for review and decisions.

Director Saunders is still meeting with several groups of faculty members to get feedback on the space allocation plan and to determine which issues can be resolved before final decisions on allocations are made. One of the issues she acknowledges must be reevaluated is space for the SNS and SOE's deans' offices. In response to a CoR member's concern that some student space is being taken away, Director Saunders replied that no space is being taken away, rather, it is being moved, e.g. additional study space has temporarily been installed in KL 3rd floor West Wing until 2020. UC Merced is required to maintain a ratio of space for all groups and this ratio is reported to UCOP. The campus has committed a certain amount of student space to the Regents, and that commitment will be honored.

A CoR member asked about space for core facilities in the new buildings, and Director Saunders responded that she is seeking input from faculty and from VCORED Traina on this subject.

Director Saunders shared with CoR members that she and her staff reviewed faculty members' grants to ensure that faculty have the space they need. This includes faculty who have been awarded grants in the time since the space allocation plan was issued, and will now require additional laboratory space for their new projects. Director Saunders reiterated that all faculty members will receive, at the very least, the same amount of laboratory space they currently have, not less.

Director Saunders reported that the interim Provost/EVC wants the campus to draft space principles, and that he will work with the Senate to develop them. She concluded her visit by reminding CoR members that additional comments on the space allocation plan can be submitted to her until October 17.

II. Chair's Report

Chair Scheibner updated CoR members on the following:

- October 8 UCORP meeting

Major topics of discussion included:

- Reports from systemwide leadership
- Concerns that the federal government will begin scrutinizing standard forms used by faculty, e.g. NSF bio-sketches, in a different manner and faculty may be subject to prosecution if their affiliations and collaborations with foreign entities are not listed. The UC is trying to get clarification on the situation.
- Governor Brown signed a bill requires the UC system and individual UC campuses to adopt policies that facilitate the repatriation of Native American human remains and cultural artifacts to their respective tribes. There is some concern that this may infringe on the UC's research autonomy.
- The federal government still considers cannabis illegal, which creates obstacles for UC researchers seeking to conduct cannabis research (legal in California). There is currently just one legal supplier in the U.S. for faculty to obtain cannabis for research.
- Gates Foundation has begun to request in their terms & conditions for awards, that they get rights to use background intellectual property connected to, and needed for, the use of the foreground intellectual property coming out of the funded research. However, the UC is opposed as it may affect not just the particular faculty who receive the award but third parties.
- NSF's new procedures on reporting sexual harassment or sexual violence. There is confusion as to what constitutes an administration action and what happens to the data when incidents are reported.
- Discussion of multi-campus research units (MRUs). They must be reviewed every five years. In the past, there were a large number of MRUs that evidently were never reviewed, so UCOP gave them the option of remaining as MRUs and undergoing reviews, or reconstituting themselves as ORUs on their respective campuses.

- The UC Laboratory Fees Research Program. The program is intended to encourage partnerships between UC researchers and scientists at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory and Los Alamos National Laboratory. Funding from this program also supports graduate student interaction between the campuses and the national labs. For this year's competition, the Program is seeking input on the types of topics the proposals should reflect. A Call for Proposals will be distributed in spring 2019. UCORP asked its members to consult with their respective campuses to solicit suggestions and share them at the next UCORP meeting in November. Chair Scheibner asked CoR members whether he should contact the school executive committee chairs and the department chairs with a request to send input on proposal topics.
Action: Chair Scheibner to solicit input from school executive committee chairs and department chairs to send to UCORP.
- The systemwide Senate leadership reported that they are working on closing the faculty salary gap. The systemwide Senate is proposing an increase of 8.2%.
- Discussion of university librarians and academic freedom similar to that of UC faculty members. Union considerations may affect these conversations.
- The publisher Elsevier has stopped many scientists in Germany from accessing journal articles due to a disagreement over costs of the open access arrangement.
- UCOP is restructuring several of its units.
- Policies with regard to leave for child care are now consistent in terms of semesters and quarters. Policies with regard to partners and benefits has also been made consistent, no longer differentiating same-sex and opposite-sex partnerships and no longer including an age requirement for benefit accessibility.
- UC employees may see increased premiums for UC Care in the next round of open enrollment.
- October 9 Division Council meeting
Major topics of discussion included:
 - Consultation with Director of Space Planning & Analysis Maggie Saunders
 - Presentation by TAPS on parking changes
 - Library space issues and a memo from LASC urging the administration to authorize funding for the second phase of the Library furniture project.

III. Consent Calendar

Action: today's agenda and the draft September 26 meeting minutes were approved as presented.

IV. Senate Faculty Research Grants

At the last meeting, two CoR members volunteered to review last year's Call for Proposals and recommend any revisions.

Both members agreed that CoR should keep the major elements of last year's Call and no major revisions are necessary. They did suggest minor modifications: removing the requirement that PIs identify graduate student researchers by name in their proposals and making it clearer that start-up fund balances must be included under Internal Funding. CoR members then discussed whether to modify "...the proportion of all grant awards that are made to each School will roughly match the proportion of all proposals received from each School" to state that the number of awards will be proportional to the number of faculty. Some CoR members pointed out that one particular school would be disadvantaged under this type of arrangement.

Action: this discussion will be continued at the next CoR meeting.

V. Limited Submission Procedures

VCORED Traina requested CoR's review of the current procedures for campus limited submissions. Those procedures were distributed to CoR members prior to this meeting. The VCORED asked CoR to consider if the authority over submission selection should remain at the dean/school level, or whether the responsibility should be delegated to each department chair.

Action: due to the VCORED's absence, this item will be tabled for the next CoR meeting.

VI. Systemwide Review Items

- Revised Presidential Policy on Sexual Violence and Sexual Harassment
The policy has been revised as a result of the first round of review in AY 17-18. Some CoR members requested clarification on components of the revised policy.

Action: this discussion will be continued at the next CoR meeting.

- Proposed Presidential Policy on Principles of Accountability with Respect to Financial Transactions
The Policy is a codification of an existing UCOP financial policy that is currently posted on the Office of the Chief Financial Officer website.

Action: the Senate Chair will be informed that CoR declines to opine.

- Proposed revisions to Presidential Policy BFB-BUS-46 (Use of Vehicles and Driver Selection policy)

CoR was identified as a lead reviewer. A CoR member volunteered to lead the review.

Action: the lead reviewer's comments will be discussed at the next CoR meeting. CoR's comments are due to the Senate Chair by November 20.

VII. Campus Review Item

- Proposed Revisions to Campus Policy for Awarding Posthumous Baccalaureate Degrees.

The revisions are proposed by Undergraduate Council in response to a request from Academic Council for campuses to review their policies in light of a model policy developed by the University Committee on Education Policy.

Action: the Senate Chair will be informed that CoR declines to opine.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 3:30 pm.

Attest: Michael Scheibner, CoR Chair