

**Committee on Research (CoR)  
Minutes of Meeting  
October 11, 2023**

Pursuant to call, the Committee on Research met at 9:00 am on October 11, 2023, in the Administration Building Room 344. Chair Tao Ye presiding.

- I. Chair's Report – *Chair Ye*
  - A. Divisional Council meeting September 26
    - Discussion about the future of graduate education and graduate student funding.
    - Presentation from Professor Mike Dawson, the chair of the Faculty Advisory Committee on Sustainability
  - B. Senate-Administration Shared Governance Retreat September 29
    - There were significant discussions about faculty morale as well as Oracle and the campus financial systems. The Chancellor will be consulting with Divisional Council this week.  
**Action:** The committee analyst will distribute the shared governance retreat presentations and summary notes to CoR members.
  - C. University Committee on Research Policy (UCORP) October 2
    - Consultation with the systemwide Senate Chair and the systemwide Vice President for Research & Innovation, Theresa Maldonado.
    - Continued discussion of graduate education
    - Discussion about UC-wide initiatives like climate action funds.

- II. Consultation with AVC for Interdisciplinary Research & Strategic Initiatives Josh Viers
  - A. UC Merced Agriculture Experiment Station

AVC Viers began by pointing out that AES is not ANR. AES are scientific research centers that investigate potential improvements to food production and agribusiness. AES and the Land Grant System is a three-way partnership between federal, state, and county governments. AVC Viers then explained the history of establishing land-grant colleges and universities in the U.S. The UC is California's land-grant institution. He then explained tenets of the UC ANR strategic plan, the UC ANR network, and the list of UC ANR programs & institutes.

UC Berkeley, UC Davis, and UC Riverside each have AES mission statements. AVC Viers informed CoR that VCR Wilson has a working group and one of their tasks is to draft a mission statement for UC Merced.

UC Merced currently has no AES faculty. Their split appointment requires a percentage of the appointment to be an agronomist per APM 320 – Agronomist Series. AVC Viers then

explained APM 334 - Specialist in Cooperative Extension Series. UC Merced currently has five UC ANR Cooperative Extension Specialists. AVC Viers stated that he is asking for the Academic Senate's concurrence on granting these five specialists the working title of Professor of Cooperative Extension as is the practice at other AES institutions. It is his understanding that the Chancellor or designee has the authority to grant this title, but AVC Viers was asked to obtain concurrence from the Academic Senate.

AVC Viers stated that he has spoken with the systemwide Senate chair and learned that there is interest to revise the APM but that will take a couple of years. The MAPP, however, will have to be revised if the working title is granted.

AVC Viers will deliver this presentation to Divisional Council this week. He will return to CoR on November 29 to discuss a draft ORU proposal.

- III. Consent Calendar
  - A. Today's agenda
  - B. Draft September 27 minutes

**Action:** The Consent Calendar was approved as presented.

- IV. From Graduate Council: Proposed Policy for Hybrid Programs

Prior to this meeting, CoR members reviewed the proposed policy and the lead reviewer's comments. Both were hyperlinked on today's agenda.

CoR members were generally supportive of the lead reviewer's comments.

**Action:** The committee analyst will redistribute the draft memo to CoR for additional review. CoR's memo is due to the Senate Chair by Friday, October 13.

- V. Systemwide Review Item

- A. Proposed APM Section 672 - Negotiated Salary Program

The purpose of the NSP is to provide a mechanism for participating campuses to augment faculty compensation basis according to the competitive requirements of academic disciplines.

The proposed APM 672, explanatory cover letter from UCOP, UC campus comments from previous iterations, and CoR's May 2022 were all hyperlinked on today's agenda.

CoR identified a lead reviewer.

**Action:** The lead reviewer's comments will be discussed at the October 25 meeting. CoR's memo is due to the Senate Chair by Friday, November 3.

VI. Centers Policy

**Background:** In conjunction with the former VCORED and campus administrators, CoR revised and submitted the Centers policy to Divisional Council in AY 21-22 which was hyperlinked on today's agenda. CoR received comments from Senate committees in fall semester 2022. All fall semester 2022 comments were hyperlinked on today's agenda.

Former CoR Chair Sexton requested that CAPRA clarify their fall 2022 comments. CAPRA's updated comments dated February 14, 2023 were hyperlinked on today's agenda.

The updated Centers policy should be transmitted to Divisional Council for review by the end of the fall semester.

CoR members briefly discussed CAPRA's February 2023 comments and supported them.

**Action:** The committee analyst will redistribute the Centers policy to the CoR chair on a Google doc for edits. Then, all CoR members will be asked to review and edit the Google doc.

VII. Draft Call for Proposals for Annual Senate Faculty Grants Program

The draft AY 23-24 call was hyperlinked on today's agenda. CoR traditionally has issued the Call for Proposals in early or mid-November with a submission deadline by the end of January. CoR will have 1.5 months to review the proposals. Awardees are usually announced in mid-March.

CoR members briefly reviewed the draft AY 23-24 Call for Proposals.

**Action:** The committee analyst will redistribute the draft Call for Proposals to CoR members for further review and will add it to the next CoR agenda.

VIII. Core Facilities

In AY 20-21, CoR and ORED collaborated on a survey to faculty on core facilities and instrumentation. The survey questions, results, and CoR's analysis of the results were hyperlinked on today's agenda.

**Action:** This item will be tabled for the next CoR meeting when VCR Wilson is present.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:30 am.

Attest: Tao Ye, CoR Chair