

Committee on Research (CoR)
Minutes of Meeting
October 18, 2021

Pursuant to call, the Committee on Research met at 2:30 – 4:00 pm on October 18, 2021 via Zoom. Chair Jason Sexton presiding.

I. Consultation with Paul Maglio, Director of Division of Management & Information

Director Maglio and members of the Gallo School planning team discussed their strategy for revising the Gallo School pre-proposal that was submitted for Senate review in the last academic year. CoR had two main concerns with the pre-proposal last year: 1) the lack of diversity of the proposal team faculty and 2) the absence of topics such as agriculture economics and management and not enough elaboration on agriculture pollution and water usage. Gallo Planning Team Member David Noelle informed CoR members that both concerns will be addressed in the revised pre-proposal.

The revision strategy for the pre-proposal is as follows:

- Intellectual and programmatic coherence
 - Complex problems without technical solutions
 - Convergence in education and research
- Resource needs and financial model
 - Follow financial model of existing schools
- Impact on existing schools and campus
 - Zero-sum impact vs. impact on campus growth
 - Shovel-ready plan for increasing campus enrollment
- Clear support from campus leadership
 - Aligned with campus strategic vision

Planning Team Member Noelle clarified that they are not proposing new resources; four existing programs will just be moved into the new school: Cognitive and Information Sciences, Management of Complex Systems, Economics and Business Management, and Political Science. The inclusion of the Political Science department in the future Gallo school is a recent development and was not included in the pre-proposal materials from last year. Once the Gallo school is established, there will be opportunities for cross-campus research collaboration.

Gallo Planning Team Member Nate Monroe stated that the future Center for Analytical and Political Engagement will create opportunities for both undergraduate and graduate students and will bolster the representation of the Central Valley at the state level and beyond. For example, undergraduate students will have opportunities to train to be legislative interns and staff members in the Legislature and there will be fellowships available for students who have Central Valley connections through their high school or

university education. As a further indication of the Gallo school's emphasis on the local region, Director Maglio added that he is working with External Relations to identify Central Valley industry representatives for collaborations. He also pointed out that the MIST graduate group's Master of Management program mostly includes students from the Central Valley who completed their undergraduate degree at UC Merced.

A CoR member inquired about the financial support needed to establish the Gallo school. Director Maglio replied that his team is working on a new financial model. The campus decided to move forward with establishing the Gallo school in honor of the promise made to the Gallo family when they made their initial gift of \$5 million to the campus. That original \$5 million has grown to nearly \$11 million, plus matching funds and restricted use funds for endowed chairs and fellowships.

II. Chair's Report – Chair Sexton

A. Divisional Council meeting September 30

The main discussion items were:

- i. Consultation with the interim campus diversity officer on various EDI initiatives including a plan to hire Associate Deans for diversity in each of the schools.
- ii. UGC and GC chairs are approving temporary requests for online courses in spring 2022.
- iii. The joint memo from CoR, FWAFF, and GC on research obstacles was well received by Divisional Council and transmitted to the Chancellor and EVC/Provost. The EVC/Provost also responded favorably.
- iv. Divisional Council reviewed three new endowed chairs proposed by the Department of External Relations.
- v. The School of Engineering Executive Committee's proposal for an emergency provision to allow unit 18 lecturers and adjunct faculty to deliver lectures online in spring 2022.
- vi. Consultation with the EVC/Provost on the problems with Alpha Financials.
- vii. Potential unit 18 lecturer strike. CoR Chair Sexton referred committee members to an email submitted to faculty by Senate Chair Westerling.

B. University Committee on Research Policy (UCORP) meeting October 11

The problems with Oracle and Alpha Financials have been brought to the attention of UC President Drake by Academic Council. UC San Diego is experiencing the same problems as UC Merced. Other campuses are having challenges related to procurement such as staffing shortages but not related to Oracle.

III. Consent Calendar

A. Today's agenda

B. Draft September 27 meeting minutes

Action: the Consent Calendar was approved as presented.

IV. Senate Faculty Grants Program

A. Draft AY 21-22 Call for Proposals

CoR members were asked to review the draft Call, specifically, the new language on Sustainability which was provided by Faculty Advisory Committee on Sustainability Chair Dawson, and the review criteria.

The timeline is:

- CoR issues the AY 21-22 Call for Proposals by early-to-mid November 2021
- The deadline for submissions is the end of January 2022
- CoR will select awardees by mid-February

Action: CoR approved the draft AY 21-22 Call for Proposals.

Interim VCORED Zatz mentioned to CoR that the Chancellor is allocating \$1 million from the MacKenzie Scott gift to the Academic Senate. The Senate needs to decide this year on how to spend those funds, as the funds will start to be spent next year. If the Chancellor is pleased with how the Senate spends the funds – in a way that supports the campus’s goals – he may make that funding permanent.

V. Consultation with Interim VCORED Zatz

Interim VCORED Zatz informed CoR that the Chancellor is allocating funds to support the enrollment of additional PhD students in support of the campus’s goal to achieve R1 status. Interim VCORED Zatz is creating a committee with Interim VPDGE Kello to review proposals from graduate groups on adding PhD students. She is requesting one member from CoR and one member from GC to serve on the review committee. The deadline for proposals is November 15 and the review committee will make decisions by December 1.

Action: CoR member Anand Balasubramaniam will serve on the interim VCORED’s review committee.

VI. Revised Policy for Establishment, Disestablishment & Review of Centers

The Centers Policy subcommittee made revisions to the draft policy for CoR members’ review. CoR members viewed the updated draft positively but suggested that language should be added about Centers maximizing their contributions to the campus research mission along with concrete examples.

Action: The subcommittee members will edit the draft policy. CoR members will review and approve the updated policy by Wednesday, October 20. Per the previously-agreed upon next steps, the CoR analyst will transmit the policy to the Chancellor, EVC/Provost, and Interim CFO for review with a request for feedback by Monday, November 1. After CoR

incorporates the administration's feedback, the updated policy will be transmitted to Divisional Council for Senate and campus wide review.

VII. Draft Charge for Campus Committee on Lab Safety

CoR Chair Sexton and Interim VCORED Zatz briefly summarized their draft charge and the rationale for establishing such a committee. CoR members viewed the draft charge positively but suggested that the committee include faculty members with particular expertise.

Action: Interim VCORED Zatz will revise the draft charge. CoR members to review and approve the revised charge by Monday, October 25.

VIII. Systemwide Review Items

A. Proposed Revisions to Presidential Policy on Sustainable Practices

The lead reviewer suggested that CoR decline to opine as the proposed, revised policy does not appeal to impact the campus research mission. CoR members agreed.

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

B. Proposed Presidential Policy on Integrated Pest Management

The proposed policy, together with a cover letter from UCOP, were linked on today's agenda.

The policy is newly proposed to address the following key issues:

- The issuance of the Integrated Pest Management ("IPM") Policy intends to establish the University of California's requirements for the implementation of an IPM Program at every UC location as recommended by the UC Herbicide Task Force formed by former President Napolitano with support from the Regents.
- Exemptions to the policy include the use of pesticides in research, the use of antimicrobials for hygienic purposes (e.g., disinfecting sprays or wipes, pool treatments, and drinking water treatments), and the use of chemicals for the purpose of sterilizing medical products or equipment.

Action: CoR identified a lead reviewer. The lead reviewer's comments will be discussed at the November 1 CoR meeting. CoR's comments on due by 5:00 pm on Thursday, November 4.

C. Proposed revisions to APM-759 (Leaves of Absence/Other Leaves Without Pay)

The revised policy, together with a summary of the revisions from UCOP, were linked on today's agenda.

In May 2021, the Regents Working Group on Innovation Transfer and Entrepreneurship recommended in its final report that APM-759 be revised to explicitly state that a leave without pay can be used for innovation and entrepreneurship pursuits. The proposed revisions to APM-759 are responsive to the Regents Working Group recommendations.

Action: The lead reviewer's comments will be discussed at the November 1 CoR meeting. CoR's comments on due by 5:00 pm on Friday, November 19.

IX. Other Business

At the next meeting, Interim VCORED Zatz will make a presentation to CoR on the campus's path to R1.

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

Attest: Jason Sexton, CoR Chair