Committee on Research (CoR)
Minutes of Meeting
October 24, 2018

Pursuant to call, the Committee on Research met at 2:00 pm on October 24, 2018 in Room 397 of the Kolligian Library, Chair Michael Scheibner presiding.

I.   Chair's Report

Chair Scheibner updated CoR members on the October 23 Division Council meeting. Major items of discussion included a consultation with the interim Provost/EVC about program review (academic and administrative) and course assessments, campus review items, and planning for the development of procedures for evaluating impending proposals to establish new Schools.

II.   Budget Work Group updates

CoR member Subramaniam, who represents the committee on the Budget Work Group, provided a debrief of the Group's meeting held earlier today. As this was the first meeting of the year for the Budget Work Group, there was a discussion on the charge to the committee and a summary of the Group's work in the last academic year. The Group will endeavor to focus this year on indirect cost return, specifically, exploring different models of returning these costs to faculty members. Another issue that was discussed was how to achieve a balance between increasing the graduate student population with ensuring all new and existing graduate students are supported with sufficient funding. Professor Subramaniam stated that he will share the documents from today's Budget Work Group meeting with CoR members.   CoR members then briefly discussed indirect cost distribution and how these funds are divided.

Action: the issue of indirect cost recovery distribution will be added to the next CoR agenda to discuss with VCORED Traina.

III.   Consent Calendar

Action: today's meeting agenda and the October 10 draft meeting minutes were approved as presented.

IV.   Senate Faculty Grants

CoR members continued their discussion from previous meetings about revisions to next year's Call for Proposals for the Senate faculty grants. After additional discussion, the members came to a consensus to the minor modifications to the Call. In an effort to award these grants in a more timely manner so as not to disadvantage faculty members who wish

to hire graduate students to work on summer projects, CoR members agreed that the Call should be issued to faculty by November 16, 2018, and submissions should be due to CoR by January 22, 2019. CoR members would be able to review and select awardees by early March 2019.

The conversation then turned to the fact that the funding made available for the Senate faculty grants (from the Provost/EVC's budget) has not increased commensurate with the growth in faculty numbers. In a previous academic year, CoR gathered data from former awardees on how these grants aided their research; that data was then used as part of a request to the former Provost/EVC to increase the funding for the Senate faculty grants. Current members suggested that this same request should be made again to the current, interim Provost/EVC but the data should consist of a list of past years' meritorious proposals that did not get funded. In the absence of bridge funding on this campus, the Senate faculty grants provide much needed assistance for many faculty members. A CoR member suggested that the committee ask the school deans for their support when CoR requests additional funding from the interim Provost/EVC. Members agreed with this suggestion.

Action: analyst will distribute the updated revisions to the Call for Proposals for members' review and approval via email. A discussion will be added to the next CoR agenda on requesting additional funding from the interim Provost/EVC, and gaining support from the school deans.

V.   Systemwide Review Items

- Revised Presidential Policy on Sexual Violence and Sexual Harassment
  CoR members viewed the policy favorably overall, however they raised questions with regard to the no contact orders. Specifically, members ask for clarification on whether a faculty member who is under investigation is prohibited from communicating with all students in his or her laboratory, or from entering his or her laboratory until the situation is resolved.

  Action: a draft memo will be circulated among the committee members via email for review and approval. A final memo will be transmitted to the Senate Chair by his deadline of November 20.
- Proposed Presidential Policy BFB-RMP-7 Protection of Administrative Records Containing Personally Identifiable Information

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

VI.   Other Business

Prior to this meeting, CoR members requested a discussion on the following topics:

- Clarification on UC Merced's gift policy and the administrative fee. Prior to this meeting, VCORED Traina advised the committee that clarification needs to be sought from External Relations, as the policy does not derive from ORED.

    Action: this item was tabled for the next CoR meeting for further discussion.

- Two-factor authentication policy.
    The campus will implement this policy for all employees on November 26, 2018. Some faculty have expressed concern over the method in which access codes are sent to them, e.g. if they are abroad with minimal or no internet access, they would be unable to receive the necessary code to be able to log on to any campus site or system that requires single sign on. CoR members suggested sending a memo to CIO Ann Kovalchick with a summary of concerns.

    Action: this item will be added to the next CoR agenda

- Post-award grant management
    Several faculty members are experiencing continual problems with obtaining accurate balances on their grants. Some faculty have been informed that they are in deficit (a fact of which they were unaware) and asked to cover the difference with their start up funds. Faculty understandably have refused to use their start up for such a purpose. CoR members agreed that this issue should be discussed with VCORED Traina at the next CoR meeting. CoR member Moran, who serves on the VCORED's Grants Working Group, stated that she will raise this issue at the Group's first meeting.

    Action: this item will be added to the next CoR agenda for discussion with VCORED Traina.

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

Attest: Michael Scheibner, CoR Chair