

**Committee on Research (CoR)**  
**Minutes of Meeting**  
**October 5, 2022**

Pursuant to call, the Committee on Research met at 9:30 am on October 5 via Zoom. Chair Jason Sexton presiding.

I. Consultation with Vice Provost for Academic Personnel – *Tom Hansford*

Background: In 2021, UCOP formed a Mitigating COVID-19 Impacts on Faculty Working Group (MCIF-WG) consisting of seventeen Senate-Administration members from across all campuses. In July 2022, UC President Drake issued a memo to all campus Chancellors conveying his and the Working Group's recommendations. The memo called for each campus to implement programs and policies consistent with the Working Group's recommendations. The July 2022 memo was shared with CoR prior to this meeting and is linked on today's agenda.

VPAP Hansford explained to CoR that one recommendation to campuses is to use existing mechanisms to assist faculty in rebooting their research agendas in the wake of COVID-19 pandemic impacts. After speaking with the Senate Chair and Vice Chair, he suggests that CoR could integrate COVID mitigation considerations into the annual Senate faculty grants competition or hold a separate, narrower grants competition focusing solely on allocating funds for COVID mitigation. VPAP Hansford added that EVC/Provost Camfield may commit additional funds to the Senate for COVID mitigation purposes to the Senate/CoR only after he reviews a proposal from CoR on allocating those funds. The total amount of funds the EVC/Provost may commit is unknown at this time. VPAP Hansford stated that EVC/Provost Camfield recommends that CoR should prioritize assistant faculty (untenured) in the allocation of funds for COVID mitigation. Full Professors should perhaps not be eligible to apply. VPAP Hansford added that even if EVC/Provost Camfield allocates additional funds this year, he is undecided whether he will provide such funds for next year.

**Action:** CoR will draft a proposal in the next two weeks on how it would allocate funds (if they are provided by the EVC/Provost) for COVID mitigation either under the current, annual Senate faculty grants program or through a smaller, separate grants program for this purpose.

II. Chair's Report – *Jay Sexton*

A. Chair Sexton welcomed new VCR Gillian Wilson and the committee introduced themselves. VCR Wilson summarized her knowledge of shared governance having

worked in the UC system as both faculty and in the administration and stated that she looks forward to working with CoR.

B. October 4 Divisional Council meeting

The major discussion topics included:

- Senate Chair LiWang reported at Divisional Council that the administration is discussing the campus policy/procedures for establishing new Schools.
- The urgent need to increase enrollment.
- Other UC campuses are implementing Oracle.
- The need to provide funds to departments to cover faculty leaves and course releases.
- EVC/Provost Camfield discussed with Divisional Council the confusion over course modality changes during the recent heat wave.

III. Annual Senate Faculty Grants Program – *Jay Sexton*

A. AY 21-22 Call for Proposals

Per past practice, the Call should be issued to Senate faculty in early November with a deadline for submissions by the end of January.

CoR members briefly discussed how to revise the annual Call for Proposals for the Senate faculty grants program to take into account COVID mitigation considerations given VPAP Hansford's consultation earlier in today's meeting.

**Action:** the committee analyst will send the committee the AY 21-22 Call for Proposals so the committee can update it for this academic year's grant competition.

IV. Instrumentation Grants – *Jay Sexton*

Per the discussion in the last CoR meeting, Divisional Council approved (in spring 2022) the spending plan for the Senate's portion of the MacKenzie Scott campus gift. That spending plan included \$150,000 for faculty instrumentation. Today's agenda included a link to that spending plan and materials from the AY 20-21 instrumentation grants competition that Interim VCORED Zatz held in conjunction with CoR.

CoR members discussed a potential Call for Proposals for an instrumentation grants competition. A CoR member suggested that faculty could use the funds to transfer current instruments to shared instruments and put funds towards the updating and maintenance of core facilities. CoR members also inquired whether faculty could use the funds to hire dedicated personnel with appropriate expertise to manage the instruments.

**Action:** the committee analyst will send the committee the AY 20-21 Call for Proposals for the instrumentation grants competition so the committee can update it for a potential competition this academic year.

- V. Consent Calendar
  - A. Today's agenda
  - B. Draft September 21 meeting minutes

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

- VI. Senate-Administration Research Safety Advisory Committee – *Jay Sexton*  
The committee's charge was linked on today's agenda.

**Action:** any CoR members who volunteer to serve on the committee are asked to notify the committee analyst and chair. The names of the volunteers will be sent to CoC for endorsement.

- VII. Consultation with VCORED – *Gillian Wilson and Marjorie Zatz*

A CoR member asked about creative solutions to the problem of insufficient staffing levels. Staff retention is also a problem.

CoR Chair Sexton asked Interim VCORED Zatz for clarification on the climate research funds and funds from the "Inland Rising" Assembly bill, and asked about the decision-making process for how those funds will be allocated on campus. Interim VCORED Zatz clarified that the funds from "Inland Rising" Assembly bill are to be used for infrastructure/capital and are separate from the climate research funds. She added that she recently held a townhall to which she invited faculty members who have been awarded grants for climate research over the past two years. Interim VCORED Zatz stated that UCOP will soon announce a workshop for UC faculty on funding opportunities for climate research. With regard to the decision-making process on allocating the funds, Interim VCORED Zatz stated different UC Chancellors have different styles and that UC Merced is trying to engage with its faculty.

- VIII. Systemwide Review Item – *Jay Sexton*
  - A. Presidential Policy on Vaccination Programs

The policy consolidates existing systemwide vaccination requirements (other than the Student Immunization Policy) into a systemwide policy with Program Attachments for the SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19) Vaccination Program and the Seasonal Influenza Vaccination Program.

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

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:00 am.

Attest: Jason Sexton, CoR Chair