

**Committee on Research (CoR)**  
**Minutes of Meeting**  
**October 8, 2019**

Pursuant to call, the Committee on Research met at 1:30 pm on October 8, 2019 in Room 232 of the Kolligian Library, Chair Michael Scheibner presiding.

I. Chair's Report

Chair Scheibner reported on the following:

- Chancellor's Search Advisory Committee meeting with Senate faculty September 24

During the discussion on the preferred qualities and priorities of the next Chancellor, Chair Scheibner emphasized the campus research mission and research infrastructure (future and maintenance of current infrastructure).

- Sponsored Project Services Redesign Advisory Board meeting September 24

The main topic of discussion was SRS staff redesign. It was suggested that faculty envision the system as "embedded" rather than "centralized". There are two separate issues, organizational structure and where staff are physically located. Important questions to consider are 1) whichever model of staff reporting is implemented, does it scale with the growth of the campus? 2) will the model withstand stresses in the system?

- Division Council meeting October 2

The major topics of discussion included:

- Update from EVC/Provost Camfield. Per his campus wide email, there will be no new faculty FTE lines for next year due to a budget shortfall. This does not affect current recruiting plans; replacement lines, carry over lines, and failed searches will also continue as planned
- A general obligation bond will be included on next year's election ballot. Approximately \$2 billion of the proposed funding will be for the UC system. UC Merced's funding priorities are: new building for public health and psychological sciences, 2020 retrofitting, and a new field station for the Natural Reserve System. The top priority for systemwide is seismic retrofitting for other UC campuses.
- The search to replace UC President Napolitano is underway. One faculty member from UC Merced will be on the advisory committee. Chair Scheibner asked CoR members for input on the qualities needed in a new UC President. He will relay them to the Senate Chair by the close of business today, per the Senate Chair's request.

- The UC and Elsevier are still deadlocked. However, the UC is looking at Cambridge University Press who has a good model for open access publishing.
  - There will be a 4% increase in faculty salaries which will be made retroactive.
  - Employee contributions to the UC pension fund will likely increase
  - The internal audit of admissions practices was completed.
  - The carbon neutrality statement from last academic year may be revisited.
- Updates from VCORED Traina (via Chair Scheibner, in the VCORED's absence)

On September 30, Chair Scheibner and other faculty members met with FBI representatives at the Downtown Campus Center. The representatives gave an overview of foreign influence over research activities. They explained to faculty members what they and the campus must do in order to stay in compliance with federal laws. Researchers must ensure transparency by disclosing all foreign affiliations and collaborations. There must not be any inconsistencies in these disclosures or any conflict of interest.

## II. Consent Calendar

- A. Today's agenda
- B. September 24, 2019 draft meeting minutes

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

## III. Senate Faculty Grants

CoR members discussed potential revisions to the annual Call for Proposals for Senate faculty grants. Questions from the committee included whether CoR should continue accepting a mix of collaborative and single PI proposals, earmarking a portion of the total \$175,000 fund for equipment proposals, and how best to create an incentive for faculty members to apply for external grants.

CoR members agreed that this year's Call for Proposals should include the following: 1) faculty members who have received Senate faculty grant funding in the past five years must state the outcomes achieved for each successful grant, e.g. publications and/or external grants; 2) clarification that the criterion "time since last award" will be defined by the collaborator who was most recently awarded a Senate faculty grant.

CoR members agreed that the final version of the Call for Proposals should be issued to Senate faculty by mid-November 2019 and the deadline for submissions should be the end of January 2020.

**Action:** The committee analyst will make these revisions to the Call for Proposals and distribute to the committee members for review. The revised Call will be added to the next CoR agenda for additional discussion.

## IV. ORU Policy

In a previous CoR meeting, the committee formed a subcommittee to revise the ORU policy in response to comments received from Senate committees, School Executive Committees, and ORU directors.

Chair Scheibner suggested that each subcommittee member be assigned their own sections of the policy to work on.

**Action:** The committee analyst will schedule a meeting for next week for the ORU subcommittee to begin their work.

## V. Campus Review Item

- Draft charge for faculty advisory committee for IT.

Prior to this meeting, the lead reviewer's comments were distributed to the committee. Committee members agreed with the reviewer's main comment that it is not just the number of software applications that is burdensome to faculty, but the frequency by which the software is upgraded or modified, causing faculty to have to relearn them. CoR members also suggested adding "research" to the list contained in the draft charge of areas on campus that would benefit from effective and efficient use of digital technologies. Finally, CoR members suggested that the advisory committee's membership should reflect the diversity of research on campus, e.g. theoretical/computational, experimental, and teaching.

**Action:** The committee analyst will draft a memo and distribute to CoR members for review and approval. CoR's final memo is due to the Senate Chair by October 22.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:00 pm.

Attest: Michael Scheibner, CoR chair