

Committee on Research (CoR)
Minutes of Meeting
November 16, 2020

Pursuant to call, the Committee on Research met at 10:00 – 11:30 am on November 16, 2020 via Zoom. Chair Kara McCloskey presiding.

I. Chair's Report

A. Updates from November 9 UCORP meeting

- i. UC researchers are being targeted by animal rights activist groups.
- ii. Foreign influence over research continues to be a significant concern at the federal government level. Faculty must follow all laws surrounding export control, disclosures, and ethics. Faculty are encouraged to contact AVC Debbie Motton with any questions.
- iii. Report of the Online Undergraduate Degree Task Force
The report provides three policy options: Option 1 (UC-Quality On-campus Degree) would prohibit fully remote undergraduate degree programs and require at least one-third of all major units and also one-third of total units to be earned in non-remote courses; Option 2 (UC-Quality Remote Degree) would support the formation of entirely remote degree programs, but require that programs meet all ordinary expectations for a UC degree; and Option 3 (Instruction-Only Remote Degree) would allow fully remote degree programs that satisfy the same coursework expectations as UC's face-to-face programs, but may not guarantee equivalent out of classroom opportunities. UCORP members were not in favor of Option 3.

B. Updates from the November 13 Divisional Council meeting

- i. Federal government concerns about foreign influence over research.
- ii. The chairs of CoR, GC, and FWAFF presented a response to AVPF Valdez and interim VCORED Zatz's proposed policy on data and authorship disputes.
- iii. Discussion about Senate committees' comments on the Report of the Online Undergraduate Degree Task Force.
- iv. Divisional Council endorsed the proposed name change of the Chemistry and Chemical Biology department to Chemistry and Biochemistry.

C. Senate Faculty Grants Program – request from administration

CoR members suggested that faculty who received CoR grants in AY 19-20 should receive a one-year extension to those funds due to the interruption in their research plans caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Action: the committee analyst will inform the Senate Executive Director of CoR's input. CoR members will be kept informed as to what decision is made by the EVC/Provost's office.

II. Consent Calendar

- A. Today's agenda
- B. Draft minutes from November 2 meeting

Action: the Consent Calendar was approved as presented.

III. Consultation with Interim VCORED – *Marjorie Zatz*

A. Research relaunch update

The campus was able to add another 20% capacity but that will change by tomorrow as Merced County was demoted to Tier 1/purple due for COVID restrictions. However, Interim VCORED Zatz encourages faculty members to still submit their revised operational plans so that when Merced County is out of Tier 1, faculty can be ready to resume their research. She stated that she is the only one who needs to approve the revised plans, so the process of resubmission and approval should be efficient. Interim VCORED Zatz informed CoR that campus employees need to be reminded to complete their health checks before they go to campus. A CoR member asked about the process for reporting a positive COVID test. Interim VCORED Zatz replied that the positive case will be reported to the campus COVID Response Team. The response team will then conduct contact tracing per county health rules and regulations. They must abide by privacy rules while undertaking contact tracing. Individuals who need to isolate because they had exposure to the infected person will be informed. Currently, the turn-around time for campus COVID testing is several days. However, UC Merced is in discussions with UC Davis about saliva tests which yield faster results.

B. Draft plan/call for the conceptualization grants

Interim VCORED Zatz discussed her proposal for the allocation of funds provided by the Chancellor and EVCV/Provost for conceptualization grants. This is one-time funding given current financial constraints, but continued funding will be considered depending upon fiscal constraints and demonstrated usefulness of these funds to advance our research agenda.

Interim VCORED Zatz asked whether her proposal incentivizes faculty to apply for large, Center grants. CoR members agreed and stated that the proposal should clarify for faculty how they can increase their chance for success. CoR members suggested teaching buyout for faculty who apply for these proposals, but buyouts must be approved by the departments. CoR members also stated

that faculty who are awarded the funds should provide a report on how they spent the funds.

Action: Interim VCORED Zatz will distribute a revised proposal to CoR.

IV. Consultation with Campus Assistant Biosafety Officer

Due to the absence of Campus Biosafety Officer Aparupa Sengupta, Assistant Biosafety Officer Saumik Panja attended today's CoR meeting and shared a pre-recorded presentation from Officer Sengupta.

The presentation explained the evolving role of applied scientists during the pandemic and the non-traditional roles that EH&S has taken on. This includes quarantine and isolation protocols and service management; research support related to SARS-CoV-2; COVID-19 surveillance research planning using wastewater tracing; decontamination/disinfection protocol set up; medical waste management during the pandemic for different facilities; dangerous goods shipping operation: COVID-19 testing sample; education and training in collaboration with HR; and development of EH&S resources (specific standard operating procedures for different departments) for safe operations during COVID-19.

Action: Due to time constraints, the committee analyst will send Biosafety Officer Sengupta's pre-recorded presentation to CoR members.

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

Director Maglio and the Gallo School Initiative Core Planning Team/Executive Committee attended today's CoR meeting to answer questions from CoR members on the pre-proposal to establish the Gallo School of Management.

Director Maglio gave CoR members a brief history of the effort to build a Gallo School. The Gallo family provided funds to UC Merced before the campus was built. Efforts to establish the new school could not be taken until now due to a lack of faculty in the appropriate disciplines. Now that the Department of Management of Complex Systems has been created and the campus has several faculty members in Economics and Business Management and Cognitive Sciences, the time was right to draft a pre-proposal to establish the Gallo School.

A CoR member asked about the risks involved in proposing a new school during a pandemic. Director Maglio acknowledged the realities of the COVID-19 pandemic. However, he pointed out that approval of the Gallo School is a multi-year process. Assuming the pre-proposal is endorsed, he and his colleagues will draft the official

proposal. If that is endorsed at the campus level, it must then be transmitted for systemwide review. Approval of the new school is granted by the Regents. Director Maglio and his colleagues are taking a long-term approach and hope that the risks will be reduced in the next few years.

A CoR member asked how social justice is imagined in relation to complex systems in the pre-proposal. Director Maglio responded by providing a link to [Frequently Asked Questions](#) that explains how the pre-proposal will imagine diversity, equity, inclusion, and social justice. Faculty in Cognitive Sciences currently manage a common good speaker series centered on how cognitive sciences relates to equity and inclusion. Equity and social justice is one of the main foci of the pre-proposal.

VI. Systemwide Review Items

A. Proposed Revisions to the Leave-Related Policies of APM 700

Prior to this meeting, the lead reviewer's comments were distributed to the committee.

CoR members agreed with the lead reviewer's comments: the revision to incorporate gender neutral language into the policy is an important move toward inclusivity and the removal of the age requirement for a newly placed child for ASMD eligibility is important. The committee inquired how would other leave or clock stoppage due to national/global pandemics (i.e. COVID related leaves) get reconciled with existing or revised APM leave? CoR members agreed that this question should be included in the memo to the Senate Chair.

Action: the committee analyst will distribute a draft memo to CoR members for review and approval. CoR's memo is due to the Senate Chair by December 1.

B. Proposed Presidential Policy, Business and Finance Bulletin, IS-12 IT Recovery
The revised policy provides guidance to help UC locations plan for IT recovery and utilizes the IT recovery knowledge and experience that UC Health has been putting into practice. Given UC's fiscal limitations both pre and post COVID, the revised policy allows locations to manage IT recovery in accordance with their budgetary priorities and provides for the following:

- Location ability to determine what units are in scope
- Location-governed exception process
- Iterative model for adoption and compliance
- Delayed effective date

CoR Chair McCloskey asked for a volunteer to serve as lead reviewer. A volunteer was not identified.

Action: the committee analyst will email the CoR members and ask for a volunteer to serve as lead reviewer. CoR's memo is due to the Senate Chair by December 3.

VII. Campus Review Items

A. Pre-proposal to establish the Ernest & Julio Gallo School of Management

CoR members discussed the lead reviewer's comments in the previous meeting. Due to time constraints, CoR members agreed to review and approve the comments via email.

Action: the committee analyst will distribute the lead reviewer's comments to the committee for review and approval via email. CoR's memo is due to the Senate Chair by December 1.

B. Proposed distribution of Indirect Cost Recovery (F&A rate) on research grants
Chancellor Leland's November 19, 2018 memo referenced in the policy was made available to CoR members prior to this meeting.

CoR identified a lead reviewer.

Action: the lead reviewer's comments will be discussed at the November 30 CoR meeting. CoR's comments are due to the Senate Chair by 5:00 pm on Thursday, December 3.

VIII. Other Business

A. A revised ORU proposal was received from the UC Merced Community and Labor Center and addresses CoR's questions and requested revisions.

Action: CoR will review the revised proposal at the November 30 meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:30 am.

Attest: Kara McCloskey, CoR chair