

Committee on Research (CoR)
Minutes of Meeting
November 16, 2022

Pursuant to call, the Committee on Research met at 9:30 am on November 16 via Zoom. Chair Jason Sexton presiding.

- I. Chair's Report – *Chair Sexton*
 - A. UCORP meeting November 14
 - Systemwide Senate Chair Cochran spoke to UCORP about GSR salaries and the UC budget.
 - Chair Sexton asked his colleagues on UCORP about the issue UC Merced Professor Deborah Wiebe previously brought to CoR regarding NIH and salary cap add-ons. Chair Sexton learned that the other UC campuses do not have systems in place for this and the fill the salary cap add-ons with various pots of money such as discretionary funds.
 - The Office of Innovation Transfer & Entrepreneurship highlighted the \$8 billion federal and state cooperative to fund hydrogen hubs. UC Vice President for Research & Innovation Theresa Maldonado is working on launching UC research programs for that mission.
 - The Governor's office is reviewing the RFP for the \$85 million the state will provide for climate funding. The RFP may be issued in December; the UC VCRs are still discussing the details.
 - Vice President for Research & Innovation Maldonado's office is working on a patent tracking system.
 - B. Divisional Council meeting November 15
 - EVC/Provost Camfield reminded Divisional Council that faculty should respect labor laws.
 - Professor Mike Dawson, the chair of the Faculty Advisory Committee on Sustainability, consulted with Divisional Council on FACS' proposed working group and shared FACS' concerns with the climate institute and centers proposal drafted by VCR Wilson.
- II. Consent Calendar
 - A. Today's agenda
 - B. November 2 draft meeting minutes

Action: The Consent Calendar was approved as presented.

III. Senate Committee Comments on the Policy on the Establishment and Review of Centers

On April 22, 2022, after two rounds of consultation with the administration, CoR transmitted the Centers policy to Divisional Council. Divisional Council issued the policy for Senate review in fall 2022. Senate committees have now provided feedback. Linked on today's agenda were: the policy (as transmitted to Divisional Council on April 22, 2022) and the collection of Senate committee comments available.

CoR Chair Sexton noted that CAPRA made the substantive comment that there is not enough Senate involvement in the establishment of new Centers. CoR members agreed to partner with CAPRA to revise the Centers policy.

Action: CoR Chair Sexton will contact CAPRA Chair Mitchell to discuss a collaboration in revising the Centers policy to incorporate CAPRA's feedback.

IV. Instrumentation Grants

Prior to this meeting, CoR members have been editing the draft Call for Proposals for instrumentation grants. After CoR finalizes the Call, ORED staff will issue it to Senate faculty and accept submissions via InfoReady. After the deadline, ORED staff will share the submissions with CoR for the committee's review.

CoR members agreed that the call should be revised to take into account warranties and extended warranties for faculty instrumentation. CoR members also discussed the possibility of issuing another survey to Senate faculty on instrumentation needs similar to the survey they issued in AY 20-21 in collaboration with ORED.

Action: CoR members to finalize the Call for Proposals for instrumentation grants at the November 30 meeting. At a meeting in early spring, CoR will discuss the possibility of issuing another faculty survey on instrumentation needs.

V. Consultation with Former VCORED Zatz

VCR Wilson was unable to attend today's meeting. In her absence, CoR consulted with Former Interim VCORED Zatz. Zatz announced to CoR that at today's Regents meeting, UC President Drake announced that UC Merced has been designated an Agricultural Experimental Station (AES).

CoR Chair Sexton informed committee members that both CoR and CAPRA were asked by the Senate Chair to review VCR Wilson's proposal for a climate institute and centers by November 22. Divisional Council will review the comments and add their own. All comments will be transmitted to VCR Wilson by her requested deadline of November

29. CoR Chair Sexton mentioned that many faculty are concerned about the decision-making process that led to VCR Wilson's proposed climate institute and centers. He suggested to Former Interim VCORED Zatz that the proposal should be revised to include a preamble that explains the rationale for the decision to establish an institute and centers.
- VI. Systemwide Review Item
- A. Proposed revisions to the Presidential Policy on Sustainable Practices.
- Linked on today's agenda were the following: summary of key revisions and tracked changes copy of the revised policy.
- CoR Chair Sexton is the lead reviewer and will provide his comments after today's meeting.
- Action:** CoR to discuss the lead reviewer's comments via email. CoR's comments are due to the Senate Chair by November 29.

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

Attest: Jason Sexton, CoR Chair