

Committee on Research (COR)
Wednesday, November 29, 2017
1:30 – 2:30 pm KL 362

Pursuant to the call, the Committee on Research met at 1:30 PM on November 29, 2017 in Room 362 of the Kolligian Library, Chair David C. Noelle presiding.

I. Chair's Report

- a. Chair Noelle updated COR members on the November 16, 2017 consultation with the Senate Committee on Academic Planning & Resource Allocation (CAPRA):
 - i. Chair Noelle conveyed to CAPRA members the recent COR discussion related to the adverse impact of the lack of discretionary research funding on faculty members' research programs. While some CAPRA members were resistant to the idea of withholding a number of faculty FTE lines, using the savings as discretionary research funds, they were enthusiastic about joining COR in making a request to the administration for faculty bridge funding. CAPRA recommended a joint memo to the Budget Working Group to highlight the current problems of this kind faced by faculty members. In addition, CAPRA suggested that COR pen a separate memo to VCORED Traina requesting an articulation of the distribution of the 20% of indirect cost return that is supposed to be used for faculty research activities.

A COR member raised a concern about the lack of research computing support on campus and the absence of a plan to share resources across the schools. Some faculty have had to use their start-up funds for this purpose, but a more desirable solution is to allocate some portion of indirect cost returns to the support of research computing.
 - ii. **Action:** The COR Chair will distribute drafts of the suggested memos to COR for review and approval. At the December 13, 2017 COR meeting, the committee will discuss the drafting of additional memos, one to the Budget Working Group concerning funding for faculty research computing support and the other to the School Reorganization Working Group in order to inquire into plans for the distribution, across campus units, of responsibility over research computing support and related staff resources.

- b.** COR Chair Noelle updated COR members on the November 27, 2017 Division Council meeting:
- i.** The Academic Planning Council is concerned that the legislature may provide a 3% increase in UC funding, rather than the promised 4%, despite the fact that the UC has met all of the legislature’s requirements for that funding.
 - ii.** The Vice Provost & Dean of Graduate Education (VPDGE) has revised her AY 16-17 proposal for the creation of an incentive plan for revenue-generating Master’s degree programs. The Senate committees who provided comments on the proposal last year are invited to comment on the revised version.
 - iii.** Division Council endorsed the Sustainability Strategic Plan and the Climate Action Plan with the caveat that these be seen as aspirational documents, only, due to the absence of an analysis of resource needs and sources in both plans.
 - iv.** The Provost/EVC’s draft faculty retention policy “Value to UCM Assessment” received many critical comments from Senate committees. One of the recurring criticisms was that the document was too focused on comparing dollar amounts and judging a UCM faculty member’s value to UCM by the salary of the competing offer.
 - v.** UGC has proposed revisions to its section of the UCM Division Bylaws. Division Council asked that these be further refined, making use of more general language, before the proposed revisions are put to a vote of Senate faculty.
 - vi.** Division Council approved a proposal for implementing honors, high honors, and highest honors at the undergraduate-program level. This proposal will ultimately be issued for Senate faculty approval.
 - vii.** Division Council discussed D&E and FWF’s memo and statement on diversity in faculty hiring, and requested the documents be revised to include a reference to implicit bias. The two committees will submit their revised documents in time for inclusion on the December 11 Division Council agenda.
- c.** Chair Noelle updated COR members on the November 28, 2017 Meeting of the Division:
- i.** The Chancellor discussed the adverse impact of proposed federal tax legislation on higher education and on the UC system, in particular. For example, the legislation, if passed as-is, would tax graduate student tuition waivers and educational endowment funds. The Chancellor strongly encouraged faculty to write to their federal representatives.
 - ii.** The Provost/EVC announced that 30 proposals have been received as a result of the call for collaborative space proposals. Decisions on the allocation of space will be made by the Chancellor and Provost/EVC with input from Director of Space Planning & Analysis, Maggie Saunders.
 - iii.** The Co-Chairs of the three campus working groups (Academic Planning, Academic Reorganization, and Budget) made presentations on their activities.
 - iv.** The Acting Secretary/Parliamentarian of the Senate presented a brief discussion about the proposed revision to the UCM Division Bylaws to empanel a Reserve CAP. Due to the lack of quorum, an electronic vote of Senate faculty will be conducted.

- II. Budget Working Group Update
 - a. COR member Scheibner updated COR members on the November 17, 2017 Budget Working Group meeting:
 - i. The Budget Working Group continues to work on an instructional budget model that includes an academic year timeline of events similar to that of UC Berkeley. This model will eventually be issued for campus review. The next meeting will be held on Monday, December 4, 2017.
- III. Consent Calendar
 - a. **Action:** The November 29, 2017 agenda and the November 15, 2017 meeting minutes were approved as presented.
- IV. Revisions to the Evaluation Criteria for the Annual Senate Faculty Grants Program
 - a. COR members continued their discussion concerning possible revisions to the evaluation criteria for proposals submitted to the annual Academic Senate Faculty Research Grant program:
 - i. Members debated whether judging proposals on merit is a task that COR should do or if the School Executive Committees should continue reviewing proposals on this criterion. One member suggested that the School Executive Committees simply conduct a “pass/fail” round of review and submitting the proposals that “pass” to COR.
 - ii. Members also debated whether to keep the two-track proposal process (seed or acceleration) or return to the traditional method of one track. One member suggested changing the title and focus of the program to “Research Enhancement Grants” whereby, instead of proposing a new research project, faculty would propose a set of activities intended to enhance research productivity (which may or may not be tied to a specific research project). COR would then evaluate the severity of the PIs’ obstacles to conducting their research program, as well as the likelihood that the proposed funded activities would overcome those obstacles and produce some form of long-term and/or broader impact. In other words, COR would evaluate how well the PI makes a case for the grant proposal benefiting his/her overall program, rather than COR deciding whether a particular research project is meritorious.
 - iii. COR members continued to discuss whether to award an equal percentage of proposals across the three Schools and the need to include this statement in the Call for Proposals.
 - b. **Action:** COR members will email their proposed revisions to the evaluation criteria to the COR analyst for compilation in preparation of continued discussion at the next COR meeting, on December 13, 2017.

- V. Revised Incentive Plan for Revenue-Generating Master's Degree Programs
- a. In AY 16-17, the VPDGE submitted to the Senate a proposal for an incentive plan for revenue-generating Master's programs. Several Senate committees, including COR, made numerous recommendations and requests for clarification. The VPDGE has submitted a revised proposal, and Senate committees are to determine if the revisions address their original concerns. The deadline for Senate committee comments is Thursday, December 21, 2017.
 - b. **Action:** Due to time constraints, COR will hold an electronic discussion about the revised proposal.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:30 PM.

Attest: David C. Noelle, COR Chair