

Committee on Research (CoR)
Minutes of Meeting
November 30, 2020

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

I. Consultation with Assistant EVC/Provost of Finance and Administration

Assistant EVC/Provost Sharon Butler discussed with CoR a suggested new process for managing the allocation of funds from the Senate faculty grants program. Assistant EVC/Provost Butler explained that due to the negative impact on research plans and university-related travel caused by the pandemic, she has received several requests from faculty members to extend the term of their CoR grant they received last year. She explained that the campus is in a zero-based budgeting period. Funds were made available to faculty on July 1 of last year and by June 30 of this year the funds were swept. The same situation will occur again this year. She has been working with the School staff to find alternate methods.

Assistant EVC/Provost Butler stated that she spoke with members of the administration including the Office of Financial Planning and Analysis, and two suggestions arose: 1) the campus could “pre-grant” the CoR awards using this year’s allocation or 2) set aside some amount of next year’s funding to cover carryforward requests.

CoR members pointed out that federal funding agencies are granting extensions to faculty grants and asked why UC Merced cannot find a way to do the same. CoR does not want to constrain faculty’s research projects. CoR members also asked whether funding allocated for the Senate faculty grants can be placed into an account that does not have to be swept.

CoR will be kept informed of the final decision.

II. Consultation with Representative from Librarians Association of UCM (LAUC-M)

LAUC-M Representative Derek Devnich explained to CoR his role in the Library and made a request to attend CoR meetings. He would like to be aware of issues related to data management for research computing as well as faculty’s general research computing needs so he knows how best to support them.

Action: CoR members will further discuss and inform LAUC-M representative Devnich of their decision.

III. Consent Calendar

- A. Today's agenda
- B. Draft minutes from November 16 meeting

Action: the Consent Calendar was approved as presented.

IV. Consultation with Interim VCORED Zatz

A. Draft plan/call for the conceptualization grants

Interim VCORED Zatz shared her draft plan for conceptualization grants with CoR members. (This is in response to the Chancellor and EVC/Provost allocating one-time institutional funding for AY 20-21 for conceptualization grants and instrumentation grants.) CoR members generally supported Interim VCORED Zatz's plan but suggested she add language related to budgetary need. Zatz agreed to add language that states that new projects that demonstrate need for conceptualization support will be prioritized over renewals.

At the next CoR meeting of December 7, Interim VCORED Zatz will share with CoR her proposed plan for instrumentation grants.

Action: Interim VCORED Zatz will distribute her revised plan for conceptualization grants to CoR members after this meeting. The committee analyst will share the plan with the Senate Chair, Vice Chair, and Senate Executive Director.

B. Update on ORED reorganization

Interim VCORED Zatz announced that the position of Associate Vice Chancellor for Research and Economic Development/Innovation has been eliminated and former AVC Peter Schuerman has left the university. AVC Debbie Motton is temporarily overseeing the duties that were previously under Schuerman's role. Interim VCORED Zatz stated that she wants the new position to focus on faculty and student needs in industry relations, commercialization, and entrepreneurship.

V. Revised ORU proposal - UC Merced Community and Labor Center

Prior to this meeting, CoR received the revised proposal to establish the UC Merced Community and Labor Center as an ORU.

CoR members agreed that the lead authors of the proposal appropriately addressed CoR's questions and concerns that were transmitted to the lead authors on October 22.

CoR members endorsed the revised proposal.

Action: The committee analyst will forward the revised proposal and CoR's endorsement memo to Interim VCORED Zatz. Per the Senate's ORU policy, the next step is for the VCORED to invite Senate review.

VI. Responses to the Faculty Survey on Core Facilities

Prior to this meeting, CoR members received the results of the faculty survey. The CoR chair asked for volunteers to analyze the results of the survey for the committee's discussion at the next meeting of December 7.

Three lead reviewers were identified.

Action: the lead reviewers will share their survey analysis with CoR members for discussion at the December 7 CoR meeting.

VII. Campus Review Items

A. Proposed distribution of Indirect Cost Recovery (F&A rate) on research grants

CoR discussed the lead reviewer's comments and all members viewed the proposal favorably. However, CoR members were concerned by the low percentage of IDCR returned to ORUs. Members suggested that the percentage that is allocated to the EVC/Provost and Deans should be split with the ORUs, or, the EVC/Provost's percentage should be reduced in order to allocate more to the ORUs.

Action: the committee analyst will distribute a draft memo for CoR members' review and approval. CoR's memo is due to the Senate Chair by 5:00 pm on Thursday, December 3.

B. MAPP 025 – Conflict of Commitment and Outside Professional Activities

This section supersedes the current MAPP 1003.

Per APM 025-14, all faculty holding appointments in the following title series are subject to this policy: (1) Professor, including Acting titles, (2) Professor in Residence, (3) Adjunct Professor, (4) Professor of Clinical (e.g., Medicine), (5) Health Sciences Clinical Professor, (6) Clinical Professor of Dentistry, (7) Lecturer with

Security of Employment, including Acting titles. The title series currently used at UC Merced which are subject to this policy include: Professor, Adjunct Professor, and Lecturer with Security of Employment (also known as Teaching Professor).

Summarized below are the proposed key policy revisions:

- i. Renumbered the policy as MAPP 025 to align with the system-wide policy APM 025
- ii. Reformatted the content to align with the system-wide policy outline
- iii. Removed language that is redundant of system-wide policy
- iv. Outlined key responsibilities for Faculty, Department Chairs, Deans, the Associate Vice Provost for the Faculty, and the Vice Provost for Academic Personnel

In light of current Senate activities related to anti-Black racism, Senate Chair DeLugan invites committees to review this item with special attention to generating recommendations for ways to intentionally maximize and promote equity, diversity, and inclusion, reduce, and eventually eliminate anti-Black racism and other forms of structural racism and inequities.

Action: CoR identified a lead reviewer. The lead reviewer's comments will be discussed at the December 7 CoR meeting. CoR's comments are due to the Senate Chair by Tuesday, January 12.

C. Academic Planning Targets

These are proposed institutional-level targets for a select subset of the Measures developed by the Academic Planning Work Group.

As part of this review, to inform the development of the campus' strategic plan, the Senate is asked to advise on the following two items:

1. The proposed targets.
2. The institutional support and infrastructure that need to be developed for the campus to reach the three, five and 10-year targets outlined in the document.

Action: CoR identified a lead reviewer. The lead reviewer's comments will be discussed at the December 7 CoR meeting. CoR's comments are due to the Senate Chair by Tuesday, January 12.

VIII. Systemwide Review Item

A. 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 members agreed that the issue of IT recovery is critical but they do not have the expertise to thoroughly review the policy. They suggested a consultation with campus CIO Ann Kovalchick to help them fully understand the policy before sending their comments to the Senate Chair.

Action: the committee analyst will invite CIO Kovalchick to the December 7 CoR meeting and will ask the Senate Executive Director for an extension of the deadline for comments on the policy (from December 3 to December 7).

IX. Other Business

CoR member Carreira-Perpiñán updated committee members on the export control meeting he attended. There are stringent rules about faculty and students working on university business while abroad, especially in a country that is on the federal government's restricted list. Faculty are also not allowed to facilitate students' access to classes and other university information if those students are in countries on the restricted list. In some countries, the use of a VPN is illegal. Faculty should contact AVC Deborah Motton for assistance in clarifying the rules.

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

Attest: Kara McCloskey, CoR chair