

Committee on Research (CoR)
Minutes of Meeting
November 30, 2022

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

I. Chair's Report – *Chair Sexton*

A. Export Control Workgroup – CoR volunteer needed to serve

Work group description:

- Chaired by the ECO; includes staff and faculty representatives from applicable campus departments
- Meets at least quarterly to provide high level oversight on export compliance
- Evaluates and recommends potential solutions for implementing, maintaining and tracking export control compliance
- Reviews suspected violations and recommends corrective actions
- Advises on complicated or special export control matters"

Action: Given that a volunteer was not identified in today's meeting, the committee analyst will follow up via email.

B. Centers Policy revisions

In the last CoR meeting, the committee reviewed the Senate committee comments on the policy on the establishment and review of Centers. CoR agreed that CAPRA had the most substantive feedback with regard to Senate oversight. CoR Chair Sexton informed CoR members that he met with CAPRA Chair Mitchell yesterday. They suggested that CAPRA send a memo to CoR in January with a list of specific recommendations for revising the Centers policy. The subcommittee of CoR who drafted the Centers policy last year will be asked to reconvene to revise the policy. CoR members agreed with this plan.

A CoR member suggested that the committee also re-examine the campus policy on establishing core facilities (policy is available on the Senate website) and consider allowing faculty to play a meaningful role earlier in the approval process.

II. Consent Calendar

A. Today's agenda

B. November 16 draft meeting minutes

Action: The Consent Calendar was approved as presented.

III. Consultation with VCR Wilson

A. UC Climate Action Research Initiative 2022

i. Note from VCR Wilson:

Dear Colleagues,

UCOP has released the UC Climate Action Research Initiative 2022. This is a one-time opportunity to apply for approximately \$85M in state funds.

Funds will be allocated through Seed Awards (\$500k-\$2M) and Matching Grants (\$2M-\$10M) and must address California climate action priorities. Proposals from early career faculty and from early career non-faculty researchers with PI status are encouraged. Inclusion of training opportunities for graduate students and post-doctoral fellows in both award types are strongly encouraged. The deadline for required Letters of Intent is January 2023 and for Full Proposals is March 2023. I strongly encourage UC Merced faculty and researchers to apply. Further details and Frequently Asked Questions may be found here:

<https://uckeepresearching.org/faq>

VCR Wilson stated in today's meeting that she is trying to keep faculty informed of these funds so they don't miss the opportunity to apply for these funds. CoR members asked her what support she can provide to facilitate faculty applications. She replied that she can help bring faculty together to facilitate discussion, but currently she only has one staff member who can help faculty draft their proposals. She hopes to hire several more staff in that area.

A CoR member pointed out that these calls and one-time funding opportunities are specific to those faculty doing applied climate research. VCR Wilson responded that she is attempting to get funding for seed grants that she could administer from ORED and that are not climate-related and open to all faculty. She also wants to resume the previous tradition of taking UC Merced faculty (mostly junior faculty) to meet with funding agency program officers.

VCR Wilson asked CoR members to contact her if their research is being negatively impacted by the strike. She explained that the Council of Vice Chancellors is asking for this information and hopes that UCOP will provide guidance.

- B. Next steps for the UC Merced Climate Seed Funds and Climate Institute
- CoR and CAPRA sent their feedback to Divisional Council on VCR Wilson's proposal for seed funds and the creation of a climate institute and centers. VCR Wilson reported that Divisional Council suggested the establishment of a work group and she is grateful for that offer. She also appreciated CoR's suggestion in their memo that she draft a preamble for faculty that explains the rationale for creating the institute and centers. This would especially be useful for faculty who are still not in the loop on the recent climate funding. CoR Chair Sexton pointed out that CAPRA had useful feedback on the need for a more thorough analysis and justification for why the institute and centers will be created.

A CoR member suggested that VCR Wilson take a multi-pronged approach: engage faculty widely through surveys and anonymous commentary venues in addition to working with the future working group proposed by Divisional Council. This would increase faculty engagement and raise morale.

VCR Wilson informed CoR members that ORED announced to faculty in an email yesterday that NSF-MRI has released a solicitation. Previously, the requirement for 30% cost share was prohibitive for UC Merced. This year, the NSF removed the cost share requirement. UC Merced can now submit proposals for up to \$4 million. ORED's email listed the submission deadline as December 7, however, VCR Wilson will extend this to January. This information will be included in ORED's weekly email newsletter, and she suggested that this announcement be mentioned in the cover email that accompanies the Call for Proposals for instrumentation grants that ORED will send to faculty on behalf of CoR. She also asked CoR members to spread the word to their colleagues about the NSF-MRI competition. VCR Wilson stated that in the future, she wants to create a cohesive, strategic implementation plan and start earlier in the year. A CoR member suggested that VCR Wilson use VPDUE Frey's emails to faculty as a model for communication as they are concise and clear.

IV. Instrumentation Grants

CoR members continued to edit the draft Call for Proposals. Per VCR Wilson's consultation earlier in this meeting, CoR members agreed that the cover email to faculty that will accompany the Call for Proposals should include encouragement for faculty to submit proposals for the NSF-MRI competition. CoR agreed on the following timeline for the Call for Proposals for instrumentation: submissions are due by February 15 and CoR/ORED will announce funding decisions by March 15.

Action: the committee analyst will distribute the revised Call for Proposals for instrumentation grants to CoR members for final approval. The final Call will then be submitted to ORED staff who previously agreed to issue it to Senate faculty and accept submissions via InfoReady. After the submission deadline, ORED staff will share the submissions with CoR for the committee's review.

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

Attest: Jason Sexton, CoR Chair