

Committee on Research (CoR)
Minutes of Meeting
November 5, 2019

Pursuant to call, the Committee on Research met at 1:30 pm on November 5, 2019 in Room 232 of the Kolligian Library, Chair Michael Scheibner presiding.

I. Chair's Report

Chair Scheibner updated the CoR members on the following:

- UCORP meeting October 14. The main items of discussion were:
 - The search for the next UC President will include a “campus day” in November at UCLA.
 - UC Regent Cecilia Estolano and others are advocating for a “research day” with California legislators to highlight UC research accomplishments. Planning for this event is in progress.
 - Admissions audit is ongoing.
 - UCSF and Dignity Health continue their discussions about challenges involved a potential partnership, given that Dignity Health is a faith-based organization who does not perform certain medical procedures or provide certain types of medical advice.
 - Systemwide discussion about the idea of cohort tuition whereby the tuition rate for a cohort of students who begin at a UC would remain constant until they graduate (for up to six years).
 - UCSD and UCLA, with the support of UCOP, are drafting guidelines on managing and streamlining the use of research data across the UC system.
 - UCORP is reviewing two MRUs this year.

- Division Council meeting October 30. The main topics of discussion were:
 - The EVC/Provost reported that Interim Chancellor Brostrom is interested in examining the UC funding streams to ensure UC Merced is not disadvantaged in comparison to the other UC campuses. The EVC/Provost and Interim Chancellor are developing an indirect cost return policy in which more funds will be returned to the research mission of the university. Chair Scheibner requested that they attend a future CoR meeting to discuss both indirect cost return and ideas about enhancing the Senate faculty grants program.
 - The campus is focusing on the 2030 long range development plan. The goal is to enroll 15,000 students by 2030. A working group that includes Director of Physical & Environmental Planning Phil Woods is examining the physical design framework of campus buildings. If the general obligation bond is passed by voters next year, UC Merced wants to prioritize the following areas in terms of funding: a new behavioral health building, space for vernal pools research and activities, and graduate student housing.
 - Associate Provost Schnier is working on a multi-phase process for integrated academic and budget planning for the campus. The first phase involves developing values and

goals for the campus. The next phase will involve the Schools developing their multi-year academic plans which will ultimately be submitted to the EVC/Provost and CAPRA. The EVC/Provost will make a decision on resource allocation for AY 2020-21.

Action: Committee analyst will invite the EVC/Provost and the Interim Chancellor to a CoR meeting to discuss indirect cost return.

- Updates from VCORED Sam Traina. Chair Scheibner reported to CoR that he and VCORED Traina met prior to today's meeting and discussed CoR's revisions to the ORU policy, potential re-envisioning of the Senate faculty grants program, and indirect cost return.

II. Campus Committee Updates

CoR member Miguel Carreira-Perpiñán updated committee members on the following:

- October 2 LASC meeting. LASC discussed their proposed revisions to the committee bylaws which would change the committee's membership to an at-large model; the Library's periodic review and strategic planning efforts given the growth of Library functions; and faculty access to Elsevier materials. Faculty members can request Elsevier publications through inter-library loan. However, some faculty members reported having difficulty in locating the inter-library loan link on the Library website. Carreira-Perpiñán stated that he will raise this issue at the December LASC meeting.
- Export Control Work Group meeting. The main topic of discussion was the ongoing concern from the federal government about foreign influence on research. While the concern extends to several countries, the focus appears to be on China. For example, the federal government is scrutinizing researchers who have participated in China's Thousand Talents program which was established by the Chinese government and offers financial support to international researchers to conduct research in scientific fields or technology industries in China. UC faculty are also banned from having any connections with Huawei, its products, or its subsidiaries. Representatives from the FBI who met with UC Merced faculty last month advised faculty to be transparent and disclose all foreign collaborations. If faculty members are revealed to have engaged in illegal collaborations or activities, the federal authorities will pursue the individual faculty members, not the university as a whole.

III. Consent Calendar

Action: Today's agenda was approved with the addition of campus committee updates by member Carreira-Perpiñán.

IV. Call for Proposals for the Senate Faculty Grants

At the last meeting, CoR members agreed on minor revisions to this year's Call for Proposals and elected to retain the main criteria in weighting proposals: time since last award. The revised Call makes clear that for multi-collaborator proposals, time since last award is defined by the collaborator who was most recently awarded a Senate faculty grant. CoR members also agreed that the Call should be issued by mid-November and the deadline for submissions will be Friday, January 24, 2020. CoR will finalize its review of proposals and select awardees by mid-February 2020.

Action: Committee analyst will issue the Call for Proposals to all Senate faculty by mid-November.

V. Incidental Funds and Discretionary Funding

Prior to this meeting, Chair Scheibner asked CoR members to share the process for the distribution of incidental funds and any discretionary funding in their departments and Schools. This information will help Chair Scheibner as he drafts a proposal for enhancing the Senate faculty grants program and advocates for additional discretionary funding to benefit the campus research enterprise.

CoR members held a brief discussion about the various funds they receive, including USAP funds. A question arose as to the source of USAP funds which are distributed in different ways within the Schools.

Action: Committee analyst will determine the source of USAP funds per CoR's request.

VI. Systemwide Review Item

- Proposed Revised Presidential Policy on Copyright Ownership.

Prior to this meeting, the lead reviewer's comments were distributed to the committee. The committee agreed with the lead reviewer's comments, specifically, that clarification is needed on who is an "Academic Author" and what constitutes "unusual circumstances" in the context of copyright ownership of theses or dissertations authored by UC students.

Action: Committee analyst will transmit CoR's memo to the Senate Chair by 5:00 pm today.

VII. Campus Review Items

- Faculty Advisory Committee on Sustainability (FACS)

Prior to this meeting, the lead reviewer's comments were distributed to the committee. The committee agreed with the lead reviewer's main points, namely, the concern over the addition of several representatives to the Sustainability Committee from various Senate committees. CoR members suggested that the two faculty representatives from each School – who are already included in the FACS membership – could periodically report on FACS business to the Senate. Another alternative is that FACS could invite representatives from the four aforementioned Senate committees to FACS meetings on an

ad hoc basis. CoR also noted the long-term development recommendations that were included in the FACS proposal. Committee members supported the recommendations, but hoped they will benefit all faculty across campus rather than those in a few departments.

Action: Committee analyst will distribute a draft memo for committee members' review and approval via email. The final memo will be transmitted to the Senate Chair by 5:00 pm on Friday, November 8.

- Resolution to Address Climate Change

UCM Professor Roger Bales and his colleagues involved with UCs Carbon Neutrality Initiative, Global Climate Leadership Council, "California Collaborative for Climate Change Solutions", and "Bending the Curve" initiated discussions with the systemwide Academic Council on a formal statement on UCs role in climate solutions. They have drafted this resolution for approval by the Merced Division before submitting to Academic Council to consider for systemwide adoption.

Action: CoR identified a lead reviewer. The lead reviewer's comments will be discussed at the November 19 CoR meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:00 pm.

Attest: Michael Scheibner, CoR chair