

Committee on Research (CoR)
Minutes of Meeting
November 8, 2023

Pursuant to call, the Committee on Research met at 9:00 am on November 8, 2023, in the Administration Building Room 344. Chair Tao Ye presiding.

I. Chair's Report – *Chair Ye*

A. Divisional Council meeting October 26th

- Divisional Council approved the proposed amendments to Senate Bylaw 55 pertaining to the voting rights of Teaching Professors. Divisional Council's comments will be transmitted to the systemwide Senate.
- In response to a memo from SSHA regarding faculty and instructor losses, CAPRA is undertaking a project to gather historical data on faculty hiring.
- The Oracle task force is working on its meeting schedule. This is proving a challenge given the high number of individuals on the task force.

B. UCORP meeting November 6th

- Ongoing discussion about graduate education. UCORP also discussed how to be proactive and ensure that faculty have input on important issues that impact research and teaching.

II. Consent Calendar

A. Today's agenda and October 25th agenda

B. Draft October 11th and October 25th meeting minutes

Action: The Consent Calendar was approved as presented.

III. Draft Charge for Faculty Advisory Committee for Informational Technology (FACIT)

Professor Emily McTavish joined the meeting to discuss the draft charge for FACIT which was linked on today's agenda.

CoR approved the draft charge but had one non-substantive edit: a correction to the title for the VC/CIO.

Action: The committee analyst will work with the Senate Executive Director on the next steps.

IV. Draft Call for Proposals for Annual Senate Faculty Grants Program

At the last CoR meeting, members agreed to edit the call for proposals to include language about COVID mitigation given the additional \$50,000 in funds provided to the Senate for this purpose in AY 22-23. (See the October 25 CoR agenda and minutes for the discussion about COVID mitigation funds from the EVC/Provost's office.)

CoR members discussed three options:

- 1) The Call for Proposals could include a link in the application form to a one-page document explaining the additional funding for COVID mitigation. Applicants wishing to receive COVID mitigation funds would check a box on the application form. This option assumes that applicants will have read the terms of the COVID mitigation funds. During the proposal review process, CoR would choose to allocate a small supplemental amount to each applicant who checked the COVID mitigation box on the form in addition to the amount awarded for their research grant proposal.
- 2) The Call for Proposals could ask applicants to submit a short statement on the impact of the COVID pandemic and how the funds could help them recover. Several CoR members did not support this option, as requiring such a statement would force applicants to relive the extreme challenges they faced during the pandemic. It would also be very difficult for CoR to review these proposals and make a judgement on which applicants were more disproportionately impacted over others.
- 3) The additional funding from the EVC/Provost could simply be used to augment the grants program for this year and COVID mitigation would not be an evaluation criteria.

Action: CoR members will continue discussing the options over email. The committee analyst will issue the call for proposals to Senate faculty by mid-November.

V. Consultation with ORED

AVC Viers attended today's meeting in VCR Wilson's absence. At the request of VCR Wilson, AVC Viers asked CoR for their input on developing a process for supporting faculty who apply for large grant proposals. CoR members agreed that a workflow is needed, e.g. a point person needs to be identified for faculty members and the person's function should be made clear. Currently, the campus's capacity to support large grants is low. This issue is also being analyzed by the Interim EVC/Provost.

AVC Viers stated that he will submit a draft document on this issue to CoR in the spring semester for the committee's review and input.

VI. Centers Policy

Prior to this meeting, CoR members reviewed and edited the Centers policy.

CoR members discussed additional edits to section C – Review of Centers, specifically the language about the Senate Chair determining whether a Center has substantial implications on the campus central funds such that a Senate review is warranted. CoR members agreed that the policy

should be edited to indicate that the Senate Chair will be provided with data so that individual can make the appropriate determination.

CoR members voted unanimously to approve the revised Centers policy with the aforementioned edit. The CoR chair will make the edit to the policy after this meeting.

Action: The committee analyst will transmit the revised Centers policy to the Senate Executive Director with a request for Divisional Council’s review.

VII. Core Facilities **10:15 – 10:20**

In AY 20-21, CoR and ORED collaborated on a survey to faculty on core facilities and instrumentation. The survey questions, results, and CoR’s analysis of the results were linked on today’s agenda as well as the CoR Chair’s draft preamble to the survey.

CoR members approved the CoR Chair’s preamble and draft survey questions with one edit: drop down menus should be used as much as possible instead of text boxes to make data analysis easier. However, the survey will still include text boxes where appropriate.

The CoR Chair asked the committee analyst to work with ORED on the survey questions, format, and the survey launch.

Action: The committee analyst will contact ORED regarding the draft survey.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:20 am.

Attest: Tao Ye, CoR Chair