

Committee on Research (CoR)
Minutes of Meeting
December 12, 2018

Pursuant to call, the Committee on Research met at 2:00 pm on December 12, 2018 in Room 397 of the Kolligian Library, Chair Michael Scheibner presiding.

I. Chair's Report

Chair Scheibner reported on the following:

- Meeting of the Division December 4. Main items of discussion included:
 - A presentation from Director of Space Planning & Analysis Maggie Saunders on the final campus space allocation plan. She reported that there were very few major revisions from the draft plan that was distributed to the campus earlier this semester.
 - A brief announcement from the Gallo School of Management Task Force Core Team Paul Maglio, encouraging faculty members to submit comments on the task force's preliminary vision statement. The statement was enclosed in an email from Interim Provost/EVC Camfield a few weeks prior.
- Division Council meeting December 11. Main items of discussion included:
 - The revised charge for the Academic Planning Work Group is nearly complete
 - The interim Provost/EVC announced that he would like the campus to take a high level strategic approach to enrollment management. He is establishing a small committee that will include 2 faculty members (1 of these faculty members will be the BOARS representative), 2 higher level administrators, 1 or 2 IRDS staff member(s). The group is deliberately small so that it can work effectively toward high level strategies. A charge for this committee will be developed along with a discussion of what data it requires. When the charge is completed, the interim Provost/EVC will consult with Division Council.
 - LASC chair Maria DePrano attended the meeting to clarify LASC's previously-submitted, proposed revisions to the bylaws to add at-large members to the committee. She also informed Division Council that LASC ought to play a more significant role in the Senate and the chair should perhaps have a standing invitation to all Council meetings. Division Council requested that she summarize the committee's requests in a memo to transmit to the Council for consideration.
 - GC recently submitted a memo to the Chancellor and interim Provost/EVC via Division Council regarding graduate research support. The memo addresses, among other topics, the shortfall of campus funding spent on graduate students to support their research activities. The overarching question is how such challenges will affect the campus reaching R1 status.

Chair Scheibner suggested that CoR should write a memo of support to Division Council endorsing GC's position, as the concerns raised by GC are shared by CoR as they effect the campus research mission.

Action: committee analyst will inquire with the Senate Director as to how CoR can submit a statement of support of GC's memo.

- The FWAf chair reported on a memo that that committee submitted to Division Council outlining its concerns over the teaching workload of Teaching Professors (LPSOEs/LSOEs). FWAf's memo was written following a consultation the committee had with a representative group of Teaching Professors.
- Request for participation of school executive committee chairs on Division Council.
- Concerns from the UC President about UC Merced's level of fundraising.
- UCORP meeting December 10. The main topics of discussion included:
 - The Lab Fees Research Program is moving forward with topics for the spring 2019 competition
 - The impending regulations regarding research collaborations with China – and the effect on visiting scholars and prospective students from China – remain a significant concern
 - Elsevier negotiations have not yet resulted in a solution. If no solution is reached, UC faculty will lose their access on January 1, 2019.
 - Glenda Humiston, Vice President of ANR, consulted with CoR members on ways to create more awareness of ANR across the UC campuses. One idea is to establish an arrangement similar to how the National Laboratories operate, to appoint "ambassadors" that visit UC campuses to facilitate research connections between the campuses and the laboratories.
 - UCORP members continue to review MRUs
 - Vice President for Research and Graduate Studies Arthur Ellis informed UCORP that the Request for Proposals for a project on Valley Fever was issued.

II. Consent Calendar

Action: today's agenda and the November 28 meeting minutes were approved as presented.

III. Revisions to ORU Policy

Prior to this meeting, the two lead committee reviewers drafted suggested revisions to the Senate's 2014 research unit policy to expand the section on ORUs. The policies of other UC campuses, particularly those of San Diego, were particularly useful. Committee members agreed that further discussion was required, and should include VCORED Traina, who was absent from today's meeting.

Action: CoR members will continue this discussion with VCORED Traina at the first meeting of spring semester.

IV. Limited Submission Procedure Revisions

Prior to the meeting, CoR members reviewed a revised set of procedures drafted by the two lead committee reviewers.

CoR members discussed whether the review committee for limited proposal submissions should release to applicants the rankings/reviews of their proposals. This may help the review committee adhere strictly to the prescribed review criteria and not try to adopt a different criteria that is not transparent. Releasing reviews would also provide applicants with constructive feedback if their proposals are not funded.

A CoR member suggested adding a revision that states that a faculty member who is the first to identify a funding opportunity to RDS should get his/her proposal funded; however, it should be stated in the procedures that the campus needs to ensure it has the resources to provide cost-sharing for the faculty member's grant.

Action: CoR members will continue this discussion with VCORED Traina at the first meeting of spring semester.

V. Systemwide Review Item

- Presidential Taskforce on Universitywide Policing Policies
CoR members agreed to decline to comment.

Action: The Senate Chair will be informed that CoR declined to comment.

VI. Campus Review Items

- Policy to establish new Schools and Colleges

Prior to this meeting, CoR members reviewed preliminary comments as provided by the committee's lead reviewer. His comments centered on the nature of the voting form template for new proposals, and the section on the financial viability of proposed schools. Committee members supported his comments, however, given the absence of two committee members, the draft comments will be circulated again via email.

Action: CoR members will finalize their review of the draft memo via email. The final memo will be transmitted to the Senate Chair by 5:00 pm on December 21.

- Campus space planning principles

Prior to this meeting, CoR members reviewed preliminary comments as provided by the committee's lead reviewer. The lead reviewer was generally supportive of the principles, but recommended several revisions, such as the inclusion of post docs (in addition to faculty and students) in references to research, and clarification on the responsibility of individuals to maintain their space (often federal funds are not allowed to be used for infrastructure improvements/maintenance and discretionary funds are only minimally available at UC Merced. Start-up funds have to be used up at the latest by year 5).

Action: CoR members will finalize their review of the draft memo via email. The final memo will be transmitted to the Senate Chair by 5:00 pm on December 21.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:30 pm.

Attest: Michael Scheibner, CoR Chair