

Committee on Research (CoR)
Minutes of Meeting
December 13, 2023

Pursuant to call, the Committee on Research met at 9:00 am on December 13, 2023, in the Administration Building Room 344. Chair Tao Ye presiding.

I. Vice Chancellor & Chief Operating Officer Dan Okoli and Maggie Saunders, Executive Director, Space & Capital Strategies & Real Estate

A. BSP certification updates

VC Okoli reported that the campus is working on outstanding bulletins and pending issues in BSL 3. The campus has a new biosafety officer who is assisting by identifying other issues that need to be addressed. VC Okoli's office is working with Webcor, architects, and the state fire marshal. The overarching issue with BSP relates to the building's design and categorizing the lowest floor as a basement. The fire marshal pointed out that by the true code definition, it does not meet the standards of a basement so the campus is working with Plenary on a plan to create a proper basement. Restructuring it into a basement would have the least negative impact on building occupants (a few parking spaces may be taken over by the construction site). The campus has asked Plenary to move quickly on this. With regard to BSL 3, the work could be completed by the summer. Once the campus has the design and permit, VC Okoli can refine the timeline. The campus is working with the state fire marshal on this.

A CoR member asked for an update on the transport of gas cylinders through BSP as the current arrangement is time consuming. VC Okoli replied that he will check on the status and get back to CoR.

A CoR member asked if the campus plans to hold preparatory conversations with the state and campus fire marshals in the future on inspections, designations, etc. to prevent future delays. VC Okoli confirmed that the campus is doing so. In addition, he is involving several units on campus in various reviews such as EH&S and Facilities as well as UCOP personnel to have as much input as possible.

B. Research space for new medical education building

Executive Director Saunders presented a series of slides regarding the medical education building plans.

The medical education building occupants will be:

- Medical Education
 - Clinical Skills Training
 - Simulation Training
 - Anatomy
- Department of Psychological Sciences
 - Developmental Psychology Laboratory Suite
- Department of Public Health
- Health Sciences Research Institute
- General Assignment Teaching Labs & Lecture Halls

Groundbreaking will be in spring 2024 and construction should be completed in fall 2026.

The first level of the building will include: Developmental Psychology Lab, Wet Air Lab, Comparative Analysis Lab, Interview Suite, Sample Collection Spaces, Nutrition Lab (1), and Computational Labs (2). The second level will include: Computational Labs Type I (4), Social Science Labs (3) (with interview rooms), Anatomy, Simulation, Clinical Skills Training, Medical Education Teaching & Student Support, and Medical Education Management Suite. The third level will include: Computational Lab Type 3- Damp (2), Computational Lab Type 1 (5), Computational Lab – Type 2 with secured data room (3), Cardio Lab – multipurpose (1), Social Science Research Lab – interaction space (4), Social Science Lab – Interview Space (7), and Wet Labs – (6).

Executive Director Saunders informed CoR that she is working with VPAAS Christiane Spitzmueller and faculty members who are proposing new programs to discuss space needs. VC Okoli drafts a letter on space updates for faculty who are proposing new programs and that letter is submitted together with the program description.

II. Chair's Report – *Chair Ye*

A. UCORP meeting December 11

A major topic of discussion is the future of graduate education. (The Interim Report of the Academic Planning Council Workgroup on the Future of Doctoral Programs at the University of California appears later in today's agenda.) UCORP also consulted with UC Vice President for Research & Innovation Maldonado who

discussed climate funds, hydrogen hub, and the CHIPS and Science Act. There is also interest in research pertaining to the ethical use of AI.

B. Oracle Task Force updates

CoR Chair Ye reported that the task force has met twice thus far. They have identified payroll and financial reporting as the top two priorities. At their next meeting, the task force will focus on financial management (chart strings and timely reporting).

C. Faculty survey on core facilities. ORED issued the survey on CoR's behalf and responses are due by January 29, 2024.

III. Vice Chair's report – *Vice Chair Cobian*

A. Divisional Council meeting November 30

Vice Chair Cobian attended this meeting in Chair Ye's absence. Due to time constraints, Divisional Council did not discuss the two CoR-related items on the agenda (Centers policy and FACIT charge) so these were tabled for the next meeting. Vice Chair Cobian reported that Divisional Council discussed ongoing financial reporting issues and conversations with the school staff. The Chancellor attended the meeting and provided updates on increased marketing for new majors and students such as billboards and digital marketing and he discussed a potential partnership with a community college district to create a pipeline to UC Merced. Divisional Council also discussed and approved a memo drafted by AFAC regarding the Area H Ethnic Studies Admission Requirement.

IV. Consent Calendar

A. Today's agenda

B. Draft November 29 meeting minutes

Action: The Consent Calendar was approved as presented.

V. Consultation with VCR Wilson

- ORED issued the core facilities survey to faculty on CoR's behalf and the deadline for responses is January 29. ORED will send a reminder before winter curtailment.
- VCR Wilson hopes the job description for the Core Facilities Executive Director will be posted before the winter curtailment.
- As mentioned earlier by CoR Chair Ye, the financial reporting task force identified payroll as one of the top priorities. Task force member Shilpa Khatri gave an update at yesterday's Fall Meeting of the Division.

- AVC Viers continues to work on campus support for large grants and AES which he previously mentioned to CoR. VCR Wilson would like to present at a future CoR meeting. In response to a CoR member's question about faculty input, VCR Wilson stated that she is working closely with faculty on support for large grants.
- 11 Climate Action Research Seed Fund awards totaling \$5 million and five Climate Action Innovation and Entrepreneurship Proof of Concept Fund awards totaling \$250,000 have been distributed. Awardees are listed on ORED's website. Between the spring and fall competitions, a total of more than \$9 million has now been distributed.
- VCR Wilson has received nominations for directors of the three climate centers.
- A third staff member in research development has been hired and will begin her role on January 4.
- The annual faculty success initiative will be held in January. January 5 will be virtual and January 8-10 will be in person. Renowned consultant Lucy Deckard will be in attendance to coach faculty on drafting successful grant proposals. She will also do individual coaching. CoR member Merg is participating in the initiative and offered to debrief CoR in January.
- ORED will issue a survey to faculty in the spring semester about what they would like to see from ORED with regard to research development.
- VCR Wilson invited CoR members to send her their ideas on large proposals such as Center grants.

VI. Systemwide Review Item

A. Interim Report of the Academic Planning Council Workgroup on the Future of Doctoral Programs at the University of California

The report was linked on today's agenda. The APC Working Group is a joint administration/Senate working group that was appointed in the summer of 2023 to advise the University community on the future of graduate education. It is co-chaired by UCSB Senate Division Chair Susannah Scott and UCI Dean of Graduate Studies Gillian Hayes.

Action: CoR will selected a lead reviewer and will discuss the lead reviewer's comments via email once they are distributed. CoR's memo is due to the Senate Chair by Monday, January 22, 2024.

VII. CoR Business for Spring 2024

A. Review of faculty research grant proposals (submissions due January 31)

At the January 24 meeting, CoR will begin to discuss a rubric and process of review.

- B. Analysis of results of faculty survey on core facilities (responses due January 29)
CoR Chair Ye suggested that after CoR analyzes the results, the committee could draft recommendations.
- C. Annual Senate awards
The awards for distinction in research and distinguished early career research are under CoR's purview and the committee will review the nominations. The call for nominations will be issued by the Senate in early spring semester.
- D. CoR will continue to discuss space and core facilities. CoR members discussed the possibility of inviting Executive Director Saunders back to a meeting as well as Interim EVC/Provost Zatz.

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

Attest: Tao Ye, CoR Chair