

Committee on Research (COR)
Wednesday, December 14, 2016
11:00-12:00 PM KL 362
Documents available at [UCM BOX](#)

Pursuant to call, the Committee on Research met at 11:03 AM on December 14, 2016 in Room 362 of the Kolligian Library, Chair David Noelle presiding.

I. Chair's Report – David Noelle

- a. Division Council – December 1, 2016 (Ramen Saha)
 - i. Chair Amussen reported on the Meeting of the Division, specifically about the designation of “sanctuary campuses” and the [UC's Statement of Principles in Support of Undocumented Members of the UC Community](#).
 - ii. Chair Amussen [transmitted a memo](#) to the Chancellor and Provost with the recommendation to move the Extension and Summer Session programs from Student Affairs to Academic Affairs, reflecting the fundamental alignment of these programs with the academic mission of the campus.
 - iii. Chair Amussen reported on the December 19th meeting of the Academic Council regarding how the UC system is working with other large universities to prepare for the new presidential administration, with concerns including constraints to research funding and financial aid, as well as how changes to the Affordable Care Act may affect the hospitals in the UC system.
 - iv. National Lab contacts are currently being renewed, which may increase lab collaborations with UC campuses.
 - v. UCOP is now considering long-range enrollment planning on a 35-year horizon, with commensurate consideration of the planning necessary to support such enrollment.
 - vi. [LASC](#) Chair Ryavec [transmitted a memo](#) to Chair Amussen requesting endorsement of a white paper to reallocate space in the Kolligian Library West Wing to provide additional Library services.
 - vii. CAPRA met with the Provost to discuss the criteria for foundational hires, and CAPRA concluded that it would not finalize the criteria of such hires until the campus hiring plan is finalized. The Provost indicated that his office would reach out to the schools for feedback before he finalizes the hiring plan. CAPRA would then submit its recommendations to the Provost by the end of the semester.
 - viii. DivCo discussed comments from UGC, GC, and CAPRA regarding the need for input by School Executive Committees on resource-related and planning aspects of School policy. Acting as such a consultative body is one of the central duties and responsibilities of these committees. There was a recommendation to invite the Chairs of the School Executive Committees to a DivCo meeting in May 2017.
 - ix. DivCo discussed and unanimously approved the [UC Merced Foundation Board of Trustees Presidential Chair](#).
- b. UCORP – December 12, 2016
 - i. The review of MRUs has fallen behind schedule, and the Legislature is pointing out that UC is spending money on MRUs without following up on how the funds are spent. UCOP is implementing a plan to identify those MRUs that are still

viable, with the thought that some may be best converted to ORUs on individual campuses. A series of teleconferences is planned to assess the status of the current MRUs. Any MRU that is to maintain that status will need to go through a standard review.

- ii. There was discussion of policies for the establishment, review, and disestablishment of ORUs across the campuses. It was found that there is extensive variance in the policies used by different campuses. Some campuses have different goals for their ORUs, such as UCSD supporting a program only if it would be an engine for the generation of extramural support. UCORP will aggregate policy documents from campuses into a central repository.
- iii. There was a discussion of how campuses use faculty research grant funds. Once again, each campus handles this differently, though a number of campuses are moving toward the Berkeley model, where there is no competition and every faculty member can receive \$4000 (in the case of UCB), if they request it. UC Irvine is working toward having a separate fund for small/routine expenses that would be distributed for the asking, along with another fund for competitive seed grants that the UCI COR would administer. UCLA is moving toward the Berkeley model, though they plan to require the preparation of proposals. The UCLA COR thinks that they can maintain a 95% funding rate while having documentation of how the money is being used.
- iv. There was a brief discussion of the UC President's memo on undocumented students.
- v. Some of the Chancellors expressed concern that the Senate is moving too slowly in approving self-supporting Master's Programs, and the Chancellors are looking for ways to move around the systemwide Senate processes. This issue has resulted in rumors that CCGA is moving too slowly, in general, but there is no clear evidence of this.
- vi. Regents are considering capping non-resident undergraduate students at 20% at each campus. This would result in a loss of \$53 million resulting from non-resident tuition to UCB, UCLA, and UCSD. UCI and UCD are close to the 20% cap now, and they may be affected by such a limit in the near-future. The Legislature is offering \$18.5 million to the University in recompense for this cap. There is no discussion, at this time, concerning capping non-resident graduate student numbers.
- vii. The searches for Chancellors at Berkeley and Davis are ongoing.
- viii. There is a proposal for a new system for registering international travel of faculty and students. The Academic Senate Committee on Faculty Welfare appears to be pleased with these plans, and COR will likely see proposals for these systems.
- ix. UC Riverside is experiencing serious contention between the faculty and the administration surrounding issues of shared governance. There have been serious issues involving delayed access to laboratory space, resulting in faculty members having their tenure clocks extended. There is a concern that similar issues may result in problems on other campuses.
- x. Regarding the new US presidential administration, if federal funding to the UC is cut in its entirety, it will result in a loss of \$8.5 billion: \$3 billion in research support, \$1.5 billion in student aid, and about \$3.1 billion in healthcare delivery. VC-ORED Traina noted that, on our campus, about 35% of our extramural grants

portfolio is in climate change and environmental research areas – areas potentially at risk under the new administration.

- xi.** At a recent Regents meeting, there was a presentation given on how increases in tuition would help overall enrollment, with the increased revenue partially returned through student aid. There was a group of student protestors opposed to any tuition increases, and they shouted down the presentation, keeping the Regents from being able to hear the full proposal.
- xii.** The Office of Research and Graduate Studies is working on a document of collective excellence, meant to outline the various ways in which faculty make research contributions above and beyond the production of publications. The goal is to provide guidance concerning the evaluation of faculty contributions to the research mission of the University.
- xiii.** The website, "[The Conversation](#)", has an ongoing relationship with the UC, allowing faculty to write articles about timely issues for the general public. This relationship is up for renewal, and there will be a call for more faculty involvement in writing articles, due to the high level of readership in California.
- xiv.** The funding cycle for [Multicampus Research Programs and Initiatives](#) (MRPI) is complete, with 97 proposals received. 14 were selected for funding, awarding a total of \$17 million. UC Merced had the highest representation of any campus across the set of funded proposals.
- xv.** The office of the UC President offers a matching fund for a set of endowed chairs, with a fixed number (2) allocated to each campus as well as to the [Division of Agriculture and National Resources](#) (ANR) and the National Labs. The National Labs have been cooperative with regard to Academic Senate overview of the process of appointing endowed chairs within the Labs. ANR, however, has expressed an interest in using these funds, which would normally go to a research-oriented endowed chair, to support someone working at a service station helping local agriculture professionals with their business. This issue will lead to further discussion of the relationship between ANR and the Senate.
- xvi.** It is likely that UCORP will request that UCOP produce a white paper describing the relationship between the UC and the National Labs, providing guiding principles before the UC decides whether or not to attempt to renew its Lab management contracts. This will help address the concerns of some faculty with regard to what lines UC will not cross, such as nuclear weapon fabrication.

II. Consent Calendar

- a.** The November 30, 2016 Minutes were approved as presented.
- b.** The December 14, 2016 Agenda was approved as presented.

III. Sierra Nevada Research Institute (SNRI) ORU Review Committee

- a.** One representative from SSHA and one from SOE have been identified, however no volunteer from SNS has been found. VC-ORED Traina will follow-up with the external reviewer to verify that that person still available. He also suggested Keith Alley, a former UCM Provost and current Emeritus Professor in SNS, if no other active faculty member is available. He will approach Professor Alley, and, if there is interest, he will forward this suggestion to CoC for their follow-up. The COR membership did not have any concerns regarding this approach.

IV. Survey of Faculty Concerning Staff Support for Extramural Funding Efforts

- a. Workforce planning is ramping up for late January/early February, with a committee on “research excellence and academic distinction” that the Chancellor has asked VC-ORED Traina to convene. Members of this committee are: Provost Peterson, Haipeng Li, Dean Meza, Dean Robbins, Dean Matsumoto, Veronica Mendez, Brian Powell, Susan Amussen, Ed Klotzbier, Autumn Salazar, two faculty representatives named by the Academic Senate, and a staff representative named by the Staff Assembly. This committee will address issues surrounding academic and research support. The Chancellor has come up with a specific allocation of 36 new staff FTE for faculty support across campus.

COR voted unanimously to share the numerical data from their survey with the committee led by VC-ORED Traina, with the text comments from the survey held for further review and discussion by the COR membership. COR member Saha will draft a full report that will ultimately be circulated to all faculty and integrate all of the available data, after COR has reviewed and discussed this document.

Members discussed reporting numerical data both in terms of the original 7-point Likert scale presented in the survey and in terms of aggregated summary values binned into three categories: Agree/Neutral/Disagree. The COR Analyst will research the possibility of having both results generated from the survey data.

V. Recommendations Regarding Faculty Start-Up and Incidental Expense Funds

- a. FWAF provided an initial memo on faculty start-up and incidental expense funds during the last academic year. DivCo provided their feedback on this memo, and FWAF responded with a revised memo containing two points. Chair Noelle shared the contents of the revised memo, and COR members discussed the issues raised.

A member was stuck on some of the language, such as for “predictable access”, and suggested FWAF provide subtitles for the sections for ease of readability.

A member suggested a differentiation between start-up and incidental funds, as currently they are lumped together, but are they clearly need to be treated differently.

Chair Noelle suggested that, due to this topic being scheduled for approval by DivCo on December 15th, a request should be sent to move this topic to a later DivCo meeting, allowing COR time to receive additional data from other campuses on this topic, and for the committee to generate comments based on both this data and their own insights.

VI. Purchasing and Research – Ramen Saha

- a. This item will be included in a future agenda.

VII. Center for the Humanities ORU Proposal

- a. Letters of comment have been requested from VC-ORED Traina and SSHA Dean Robbins, due January 4, 2017. A lead reviewer from COR is still required, but no one volunteered during this meeting. VC-ORED Traina noted that the proposal is not compliant with systemwide policy, as there are missing elements. COR opted, by unanimous vote, to postpone review of the proposal until the missing items are provided. Chair Noelle will

send a memo to the lead author of the proposal to request that they fulfill the requirements of the [Compendium](#) with regard to the structure of the document.

VIII. [ORU Proposal Initiation Issues](#)

- a. This item will be included in a future agenda.

IX. Identify AY 2016-2017 High Priority Issues for COR

- a. This item will be included in a future agenda.

X. Upcoming Business

- a. Future Funding of Senate Faculty Grants Program
- b. Faculty Start-Up Funds & Other Campus Sources of Research Support
- c. ORU Proposal - Center for Human Adaptive Systems and Environments (CHASE)
- d. Blum Center reorganization
- e. Administering the Senate Faculty Grants Program
- f. Monitoring Progress of the 2020 Project

XI. Other Business

Chair Noelle ended the meeting by thanking members of COR for their work during the semester, including the members who will be leaving for sabbatical in Spring.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:03 PM.

Attest:

David Noelle, COR Chair