

Committee on Research (CoR)
Minutes of Meeting
December 7, 2020

Pursuant to call, the Committee on Research met at 10:00 – 11:30 am on December 7, 2020 via Zoom. Chair Kara McCloskey presiding.

- I. Consultation with AVC Deborah Motton
 - A. IRB discussion of human subject research protocols

AVC Motton stated that IRB will approve human subject research protocols, but they cannot override the practice and policies of the institution or local and state public health orders. Faculty may receive approvals for their projects, but they cannot conduct the research due to the current, California stay-at-home order that scheduled to last three weeks. If faculty can modify their projects to conduct their work remotely, they can proceed to do so. AVC Motton stated that ORED has drafted tips for faculty to conduct research online.

Action: AVC Motton will send the document to the CoR analyst who will distribute to CoR members.

AVC Motton stated that animal subject research involving the campus vivarium can still proceed. If animal research in the field has to be done urgently, then faculty need to explain that need in their essential research plan and submit it. Faculty are encouraged to contact AVC Motton with questions if they have questions about essential research under the state's current stay at home order. AVC Motton recognizes that spring is a critical time for collection in the field; therefore, ORED will send a communication to faculty after the winter break with guidance on how to get approval for their research. In response to a CoR member's question, Interim VCORED Zatz confirmed that if faculty submitted an essential research plan in spring 2020, their plans are still valid.

- B. Interim role as lead contact for innovation/invention

Interim VCORED Zatz has reorganized the Office of Business Development into the Office of Technology, Innovation, and Industry Relations. Former Associate Vice Chancellor Schuerman has left the university. AVC Motton is serving in the interim role where she will provide supervisory support for the staff and ensure that all faculty and student centric transactions will move forward with no delay. She will not be spearheading new initiatives in her interim role. One of the

changes faculty will see next semester is increased interaction between the Office of Technology, Innovation, and Industry Relations and the faculty in order to increase the office's visibility. Interim VCORED Zatz will be launching a search to fill the position of the office's director. She anticipates that staff in that office will handle industry relations, intellectual property transfers, and entrepreneurship. The new office will be customer service based to help faculty and students and will be more responsive.

II. Consultation with CIO Ann Kovalchick

Proposed Presidential Policy on IT Recovery

At the request of CoR, CIO Kovalchick attended today's meeting to facilitate the committee's understanding of the proposed Presidential Policy on IT Recovery. CoR's comments, if any, are due to the Senate Chair by 5:00 pm today.

CIO Kovalchick explained that the policy will not be promulgated until summer 2021 and is therefore subject to change until that time. The policy allows each campus to iteratively address their needs and risks. CIO Kovalchick stated that UC Merced's greatest vulnerability is our internet connectivity to our internet provider. UC Merced's IT department will articulate the campus's greatest vulnerabilities and needs, however, the risks and consequences is a business decision.

CIO Kovalchick pointed out that the policy states each campus's responsible officer (herself) and a designated Cyber Risk Executive who must be a direct report to the Chancellor (campus counsel Elisabeth Gunther).

Action: CoR members agreed they had no comments on the proposed, Presidential Policy on IT Recovery. The committee analyst will notify the Senate Chair.

III. Consent Calendar

- A. Today's agenda
- B. Draft minutes from November 30 meeting

Action: the Consent Calendar was approved as presented.

IV. Responses to the Faculty Survey on Core Facilities

The survey results were provided to CoR members prior to this meeting.

The three lead reviewers presented their analysis of the survey results. Results revealed positive and negative feedback on all core facilities on campus. As the campus grows, additional support will be needed for instrumentation upgrades and staff.

V. Consultation with Interim VCORED Zatz

Call for Proposals – instrumentation grants.

In October, the Chancellor and EVC/Provost issued an announcement in which they shared their decision to allocate additional, one-time institutional funding of \$200,000 for AY20-21 to support instrumentation grants. (The same amount was allocated to support conceptualization grants as discussed in the November 30 CoR meeting.)

CoR members discussed whether to hold a competition for funding for instrumentation or whether the Interim VCORED should allocate the funding. Members also discussed whether funding should be allocated to establish new core facilities or to fix current core facilities, or both.

Similar to the Call for Proposals for conceptualization grants (which the Interim VCORED will distribute from her office), CoR members will assist in the review of proposal for funding for instrumentation.

Action: The lead reviewers of the core facilities survey will draft a list of core facilities they recommend for funding. CoR and Interim VCORED Zatz will discuss the list.

VI. Campus Review Items

A. MAPP 025 – Conflict of Commitment and Outside Professional Activities

This section supersedes the current MAPP 1003.

Per APM 025-14, all faculty holding appointments in the following title series are subject to this policy: (1) Professor, including Acting titles, (2) Professor in Residence, (3) Adjunct Professor, (4) Professor of Clinical (e.g., Medicine), (5) Health Sciences Clinical Professor, (6) Clinical Professor of Dentistry, (7) Lecturer with Security of Employment, including Acting titles. The title series currently used at UC Merced which are subject to this policy include: Professor, Adjunct Professor, and Lecturer with Security of Employment (also known as Teaching Professor).

Summarized below are the proposed key policy revisions:

- i. Renumbered the policy as MAPP 025 to align with the system-wide policy APM 025
- ii. Reformatted the content to align with the system-wide policy outline
- iii. Removed language that is redundant of system-wide policy
- iv. Outlined key responsibilities for Faculty, Department Chairs, Deans, the Associate Vice Provost for the Faculty, and the Vice Provost for Academic Personnel

In light of current Senate activities related to anti-Black racism, Senate Chair DeLugan invites committees to review this item with special attention to generating recommendations for ways to intentionally maximize and promote equity, diversity,

and inclusion, reduce, and eventually eliminate anti-Black racism and other forms of structural racism and inequities.

CoR members agreed to decline to comment.

Action: the committee analyst will inform the Senate Chair that CoR has no comments.

B. Academic Planning Targets

These are proposed institutional-level targets for a select subset of the Measures developed by the Academic Planning Work Group.

As part of this review, to inform the development of the campus' strategic plan, the Senate is asked to advise on the following two items:

1. The proposed targets.
2. The institutional support and infrastructure that need to be developed for the campus to reach the three, five and 10-year targets outlined in the document.

CoR members discussed the lead reviewer's comments. The lead reviewer noted that most targets are constructed using an average of UC peer institutions. The one exception is R1 grant levels, where the document states that hitting R1 grant levels by 2030 is unrealistic. However, it is unclear how the longer time horizon was estimated. The lead reviewer also pointed out that it would be useful to know where UC Merced will be with respect to each target if the campus simply continues to follow our average yearly growth over the previous 5 years (in each area). This would give a sense which targets will be more difficult to meet. Future policy/planning could then know to focus on these targets.

A CoR member requested clarification as to whether peer institutions such as UC Santa Cruz used diversity as an index when they achieved R1 status and if so, what institutional support did they receive. CoR members inquired about what type of institutional/infrastructure support would be provided to UC Merced humanities programs and the social sciences

Action: the committee analyst will draft a memo and distribute to CoR members for review and approval. CoR's comments are due to the Senate Chair by January 12.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:30 am.

Attest: Kara McCloskey, CoR chair