

**Committee on Research (CoR)**  
**Minutes of Meeting**  
**February 1, 2023**

Pursuant to call, the Committee on Research met at 1:30 pm on February 1 via Zoom. Chair Jason Sexton presiding.

I. Chair's Report – *Chair Sexton*

A. Divisional Council meeting January 23

- Senate Chair LiWang updated Divisional Council on her recent systemwide meeting. The UCLA Senate chair suggested that the financial implications of the strike should not just be addressed through UCLA's academic budget; rather, the chair believed that their whole campus budget should be examined to find funding. This may not be feasible.
- CAPRA Chair Mitchell reported that the EVC/Provost informed CAPRA that the Governor's proposed budget includes a 5% increase to the UC. EVC/Provost Camfield also shared with CAPRA that the university will provide funding to pre-tenure faculty to help with the increased costs of GSRs. This would apply to pre-tenure faculty who are still using their start-up funds and to pre-tenure faculty who have used up their start-up funds and are paying their GSRs off their grants.
- The EDI chair conveyed anecdotal evidence that women of color have been denied accelerations more than other groups. Divisional Council discussed issuing a memo to the administration to request the relevant data.
- Divisional Council discussed the proposal to establish a B.S. degree in Chemical Engineering, the proposal to establish a B.S. degree in Biochemical and Biomolecular Engineering, and the proposal to establish a minor in Aerospace Engineering.

B. Upcoming Business

- i. Review of Senate faculty grant proposals and selection of awardees.
- Submission deadline is January 31<sup>st</sup>. The CoR analyst will provide the committee with the proposals for review.
  - Previous review rubric was linked on today's agenda.
  - Award letters should be distributed by early March.
  - Question for CoR: Should CoR devote the entirety of the February 15<sup>th</sup> meeting to grant review?

**Action:** CoR approved the review rubric and agreed to use the entirety of the February 15<sup>th</sup> meeting for reviewing proposals. The committee analyst will assign reviewers to each proposal and provide the committee with access to the proposals.

## ii. Review of instrumentation grant proposals and selection of awardees.

- Submission deadline is February 15<sup>th</sup>. The CoR analyst will provide the committee with the proposals for review.
- Previous review rubric was linked on today's agenda.
- Per the call for proposals as issued by ORED, funding decisions must be announced by March 15<sup>th</sup>.
- Question for CoR: Should CoR devote the entirety of the March 1<sup>st</sup> meeting to grant review?

**Action:** CoR approved the instrumentation grants review rubric and agreed to use the entirety of the March 1<sup>st</sup> meeting to review the instrumentation grant proposals. The committee analyst will give CoR members access to the proposals when they are made available by ORED.

## iii. Annual Senate awards

CoR Chair Sexton reminded committee members that CoR is responsible for reviewing the nominations for the awards for Distinction in Research (tenured) and Early Career Research (untentured).

- The Senate Office will issue the call for nominations for all Senate awards on Monday, February 6<sup>th</sup>. The deadline for nominations is Friday, March 24<sup>th</sup>.
- CoR will form two award subcommittees of 3 members apiece which the CoR analyst will assign:
  - One award subcommittee will review the nominations for Distinction in Research
  - One award subcommittee will review the nominations for Early Career Research
  - The subcommittees will select one (1) awardee for each category.
- The winners of all Senate awards will be announced at the Spring Meeting of the Division (date TBD).

## II. Consent Calendar

A. Today's agenda

B. January 18 draft meeting minutes

**Action:** the Consent Calendar was approved as presented.

## III. Campus Review Item

## A. Proposal to Create a Department of Electrical Engineering in the School of Engineering

The proposal documents, relevant policy, and the lead reviewer's comments were linked on today's agenda.

CoR members agreed with the lead reviewer's comments and discussed whether the formation of the EE department will complement and/or expand the current research landscape at UC Merced.

**Action:** The committee analyst will distribute a revised memo for the committee's review and approval. CoR's comments are due to the Senate Chair by Friday, February 3.

## IV. Research Data Infrastructure

**Discussion:** should the campus form a Research Data Infrastructure Advisory Committee to better support the campus research enterprise?

CoR member Ardell suggested that CoR recommend to Divisional Council the formation of a Research Data Infrastructure Advisory Committee. He added that this potential committee could operate similarly to the current Oracle Advisory Committee but with a wider array of stakeholders. The campus has an IT infrastructure that helps bridge the technical and service gaps that faculty and staff are experiencing. The campus should also engage with people who are experts at managing data. CoR member Ardell pointed out that in the previous academic year when CoR issued its memos to senior leadership on research infrastructure and the problems of Oracle, CoR advocated for an easier and more efficient system for procurement, reimbursement, and grant accounting. The campus needs custom databases that offer updated, available, accurate information on faculty research groups. These databases should ideally "speak" to Oracle and other campus databases. Members of the potential Research Data Infrastructure Advisory Committee could hold conversations with faculty and staff who have expertise in certain areas and also engage with the campus CIO, Interim VC/CFO, and VCR to encourage creative problem solving.

CoR member Ardell serves on the Public and Scholarly Influence of Research strategic planning team and is advising them on the research data enterprise including grants and procurement. He advocates for greater integration with campus IT systems that would

allow the flexibility and customizability needed by faculty and staff. A CoR member suggested it would be appropriate to consider this under a general umbrella of research infrastructure in order to include physical infrastructure. CoR member Ardell agreed and suggested that “Research Infrastructure Committee” would be a more appropriate name than “Research *Data* Infrastructure Committee” as it is more inclusive. He inquired whether this should be a subcommittee of CoR or a joint Senate-Administrative committee similar to the Oracle Advisory Committee.

**Action:** CoR member Ardell will draft a memo to Divisional Council on the potential creation of a Research Infrastructure Committee. CoR will review the memo via email.

V. Systemwide Review Item

A. Proposed Presidential Policy on Anti-Discrimination

The proposed Policy is responsive to a request from President Drake for a systemwide analysis of the University’s policies and procedures for responding to complaints of all forms of discrimination and harassment based on protected categories.

The policy and explanatory cover letter are linked on today’s agenda.

CoR identified a lead reviewer.

**Action:** The lead reviewer’s comments will be discussed via email. CoR’s comments are due to the Senate Chair by Friday, March 3.

VI. ACSCOLI Update – *Peggy O’Day*

Professor Peggy O’Day, UC Merced’s representative to the Academic Council Special Committee on Laboratory Issues (ACSCOLI) will provide updates to CoR.

Professor O’Day’s written updates are linked on today’s agenda. CoR members reviewed her updates.

**Action:** CoR Vice Chair Ye will convey Professor O’Day’s additional updates to CoR members.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:30 pm

Attest: Jason Sexton, CoR Chair