

Committee on Research (CoR)
Minutes of Meeting
February 13 2019

Pursuant to call, the Committee on Research met at 2:30 pm on February 13, 2019 in Room 362 of the Kolligian Library, Chair Michael Scheibner presiding.

I. Chair's Report

Chair Scheibner updated CoR members on the following:

- February 4 Division Council meeting. The major topics of discussion included the state budget increase (a smaller increase than the UC had anticipated); fetal tissue research update with regard to federal government restrictions; institutional reference checks for faculty candidates (at least one UC campus has this practice); and the controversy over whether institutions have the right to view faculty information; Council's response to LASC with respect to LASC's memo proposing a new membership structure; continued discussion on the policy to create new schools and colleges; and a consultation with the EVC/Provost.
Action: at the request of a CoR member, the committee analyst will determine whether other UC campuses conduct institutional reference checks for faculty candidates.
- February 11 UCORP meeting
 - One of the major items of discussion a presentation by UCOP's Research Policy Analysis and Coordination Associate Director Lourdes DeMattos on clarifying composite benefits rates (CBR). The discussion centered on post docs, specifically on the fact that under the previous CBR model, post docs working in other countries could opt out of UC health care plans because their health care would be covered by the country in which they were working. Their UC salaries would be a bit higher in order to afford the health care they receive internationally. Under the current CBR model, post docs are in the same category as faculty, which increases their benefits and their CBR rates. This places a hardship on faculty PIs who have to cover the higher cost from their grants, and it creates a disincentive for faculty to hire post docs. It is a federal requirement to have post docs in their own benefit category. VCORED Traina stated that he will speak to UCM's controller as that is the individual who sets the rates.
 - The other two major items of discussion at the UCORP meeting were the review of the MRU health sciences research institute and a visit by the institute's director; and an announcement that the UC-Elsevier negotiations are still ongoing.

- Chair Scheibner announced that he will be the permanent CoR representative on the campus academic planning work group (APWG). The APWG has formed three subcommittees and has scheduled meetings and town halls for faculty.

II. Consent Calendar

Action: the draft minutes from the January 30 meeting were tabled for the next meeting, as a few members have not yet reviewed them.

III. ORU Policy

Prior to this meeting, the latest version of the revised ORU policy was distributed for the committee's review. VCORED Traina suggested one additional revision: state that ORU directors are appointed by the Chancellor (not the VCORED as is currently stated in the draft).

Action: committee analyst to send an updated tracked changes copy as well as a clean copy to CoR members to review and approve via email.

IV. Consultation with VCORED Traina

- Campus limited submission procedures. Prior to this meeting, VCORED Traina and staff in the Office of Research made additional suggested revisions. CoR members agreed with all suggested revisions.

Action: committee analyst to send an updated tracked changes copy as well as a clean copy to CoR members to review and approve via email.

- NSF guidance SVSH PI status

Prior to this meeting, VCORED Traina shared a draft document from UCOP that provides guidelines for campuses on addressing NSF's new requirements regarding faculty PIs under investigation for SVSH complaints. UCOP will likely distribute the final draft to all campuses for review and comments, at which time CoR can provide comments. VCORED Traina emphasized that campuses would be commenting on the guidelines, not on NSF's policy, which is already in place. He also stated that once the final guidelines are circulated by UCOP, his office will embark on a communication campaign to the campus.

V. Campus Review Items

- Proposed revisions to Merced Division Regulations pertaining to Master's degree requirements.

Prior to this meeting, the lead reviewer shared preliminary comments which were included on the agenda. CoR supported the proposed revisions, as they have positive implications for the campus research mission.

CoR members approved the draft memo.

Action: committee analyst will transmit the memo to the Senate Chair today.

- Enrollment Strategy committee

Action: the Senate Chair will be informed that CoR declines to comment.

- Space Planning documents

The Senate is asked, at the EVC/Provost's request, to review the "Space Allocation and Assignment: Definitions, Process and Standards" and the "The Office of Space Planning's Role in the Faculty Hiring Process" documents.

Three CoR members volunteered to lead the review of these documents.

Action: the lead reviewers' comments will be placed on the February 27 CoR agenda for discussion by the committee.

VI. Systemwide Review Items

- Proposed revisions to Senate Bylaw 336.
The revisions are concerning the Committee on Privilege and Tenure procedures for handling disciplinary cases.

Action: due to time constraints, CoR will discuss this item via email. The deadline for CoR's comments, if any, is Monday, February 25.

- SVSH frameworks.
These are draft revisions to the SVSH Investigation and Adjudication Framework for Senate and Non-Senate Faculty, and the Investigation and Adjudication Framework for Staff and Non-Faculty Academic Personnel.

Action: due to time constraints, CoR will discuss this item via email. The deadline for CoR's comments, if any, is Monday, February 25.

- UC Transfer Admission Guarantee
The Board of Admissions and Relations with Schools (BOARS) was tasked to revisit the University's transfer admission guarantee policy following UC's entering into an

MOU with the California Community Colleges (CCCs) in spring of 2018. Senate committees are now invited to review the proposal from BOARS.

Action: due to time constraints, this review item was tabled for the February 27 CoR meeting.

VII. Executive Session

VCORED Traina, together with three CoR members who submitted grant proposals, departed the meeting. Remaining members then conducted final rankings of the 42 received grant proposals, and selected 27 awardees according to the stated criteria in the Call for Proposals.

Action: committee analyst will send award and decline letters to PIs by tomorrow, February 14. Deans, appropriate school staff (grant administrators and financial staff), and the EVC/Provost's office staff will be included in the award notifications. A list of awardees will be added to the Senate website.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:30 pm.

Attest: Michael Scheibner, CoR chair