

Committee on Research (CoR)
Minutes of Meeting
February 21, 2024

Pursuant to call, the Committee on Research met at 1:00 pm on February 21, 2024, in the Administration Building Room 344. Chair Tao Ye and Vice Chair Jeanette Cobian presiding.

I. Chair's Report – *Chair Ye*

A. February 12 UCORP meeting

The systemwide Provost is organizing a UC congress on research to take place this fall. UCORP discussed the purpose of this congress and ways to help legislators and the public understand the importance of the UC's research mission. The congress will also discuss barriers to research like the lack of funding and the lack of public recognition of the importance of research. CoR Chair Ye suggested that the congress also discuss the problem of administrative workload on faculty which has increased significantly over recent years.

B. February 12 Divisional Council meeting

- Updates on the TAS work groups.
- Updates on the Financial Management Task Force

C. Updates from Financial Management Task Force

The Task Force work groups (inflow, payroll, and reporting) have been meeting weekly. CoR Chair Ye is co-chairing the inflow work group and they are doing a deep dive into procurement with the assistance of CBS2 staff. The goal is to improve and simplify the procurement process so that researchers are not required to enter an onerous amount of information for each purchase. IT is working on solutions such as drop down menus so researchers simply have to click on the correct information. Chair Ye asked CoR members for additional input on their purchasing challenges. A CoR member stated that staff retention and training should be addressed. The high turnover rate in purchasing staff has a negative impact on the overall process.

II. Consent Calendar

- A. Today's agenda
- B. Draft February 7 meeting minutes

Action: The Consent Calendar was approved as presented.

III. Consultation with AVC for Interdisciplinary Research & Strategic Initiatives Josh Viers
AVC Viers attended the meeting in VCR Wilson's absence.

AVC Viers informed CoR that the VCR is reviewing a draft document on the process for supporting large grant proposals. She may send it to CoR for review. VCR Wilson is also addressing the campus limited submission process which is currently a challenge for faculty due to the timing. By the time a proposal is approved internally, there is very little time left for faculty to develop a formal proposal for external submission. AVC Viers also stated that an ad hoc working group for AES has drafted a mission statement. This mission statement is being reviewed by both CoR and CAPRA (it was discussed by CoR later in this meeting).

CoR Chair Ye asked about support for multi-PI grant proposals. AVC Viers explained that part of the issue is tying the Cayuse record to the appropriate entry in Oracle. CoR Chair Ye will mention to the financial management task force that there should be several sub entries in Cayuse.

IV. Draft Agricultural Experiment Station (AES) mission statement

The Senate Chair has asked CoR to review the draft AES mission statement as provided by VCR Wilson. VCR Wilson has informed UC ANR that the draft mission statement is currently undergoing Senate review.

CoR members had no edits on the draft mission statement.

Action: Assuming no objections are received by today, February 21, by 4:00 pm, the committee analyst will inform the Senate Chair that CoR endorses the draft AES mission statement.

V. Results of Core Facilities Survey

The responses to the survey were previously shared with CoR and were linked on today's agenda. CoR members were previously asked via email to volunteer to review sections of the survey results.

Action: CoR members will continue their review of the core facilities survey results. Summaries are due to the committee analyst by March 13. The summaries will be discussed at the March 20 CoR meeting. CoR's summaries – together with a cover memo – will ultimately be submitted to Divisional Council with a request that the documents be transmitted to the administration.

VI. Campus Review Item

A. Interim Implementing Procedures for Abusive Conduct in the Workplace

A CoR member stated that he has comments on these procedures.

Action: The CoR lead reviewer will send his comments to the committee analyst next week and CoR will review and discuss via email. CoR's final memo is due to the Senate Chair by Friday, March 1.

VII. Systemwide Review Item

A. UC Regents Policy on the Use of Administrative Websites

Action: The Senate Chair will be informed that CoR declines to opine.

VIII. Executive Session

This session was for voting members only and no minutes were recorded.

IX. Upcoming Business

The Senate Office will soon issue a Call for Nominations to faculty for the annual Senate awards. CoR is responsible for reviewing the nominations for the awards for Distinguished Early Career Research (untenured) and Distinction in Research (tenured). (Previous awardees are listed on the Senate website.) Once nominations are received, and per the call for nominations, the committee analyst will propose the formation of two award subcommittees from the CoR membership to review the nominations in each category. The winners of all Senate awards will be announced at the Spring Meeting of the Division in May 2024.

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

Attest: Tao Ye, CoR Chair and Jeanette Cobian, CoR Vice Chair