

**Committee on Research (CoR)**  
**Minutes of Meeting**  
**February 26, 2020**

Pursuant to call, the Committee on Research met at 1:00 pm on February 26, 2020 in Room 362 of the Kolligian Library, Chair Michael Scheibner presiding.

I. Chair's Report

Chair Scheibner updated CoR members on the Division Council meeting on February 19:

- A. The EVC/Provost informed Division Council members that the Department of Education completed its audit with regard to attendance of students who receive federal financial aid. Since it is not UC policy to track attendance, UC Merced faculty worked diligently to track student attendance to comply with the audit. EVC/Provost Camfield thanked faculty for their efforts. UC Merced has had to return only a small amount of aid to the federal government (another UC campus had to return a considerable amount). EVC/Provost Camfield added that the campus is trying to develop an easy solution for faculty members to track student attendance.
- B. The EVC/Provost also shared with Division Council that the campus has applied for funding from UCOP to create a distance learning degree completion process for students who have had to leave the university for various reasons. Such a process would have to apply broadly to all such students, not only the students who would be negatively affected if DACA was rescinded.
- C. The Senate Chair informed Division Council members that the Assembly of the Academic Senate formally approved additional recommendations related to Area D (Laboratory Science) freshman admission requirement. Two years of science will still be required and three years recommended; however, science will be more generally defined. This is an issue of equity and access, as some high schools do not have the capacity or resources to offer the required three years of science.
- D. No progress appears to have been made in the negotiations between Unit 18 lecturers and the UC administration.
- E. Division Council approved the revised faculty retention feasibility assessment from D&E.

- F. The FWAF vice chair discussed with Division Council a nascent proposal that suggests the addition of a Teaching Professor to the CAP membership. Division Council members raised various concerns, including voting rights. FWAF will revise its proposal in response to comments raised.
- G. Division Council discussed the UC Working Group on Comprehensive Access Chair's Report of Findings and Recommendations regarding whether and how the University affiliates with organizations that have policy-based restrictions on care.

## II. Consent Calendar

- A. Today's agenda
- B. Draft February 12 meeting minutes

**Action:** The consent calendar was approved as presented.

## III. Senate Awards

The Call for Nominations for the annual Senate Awards was distributed on Wednesday, February 5. The deadline for nominations is Monday, March 9. CoR is responsible for the review of nominations and selection of awardees for the Senate Award for Distinguished Early Career Research ( untenured faculty) and Distinction in Research (tenured faculty). CoR must select awardees by Friday, April 3. Winners will be announced at the Spring Meeting of the Division on Thursday, May 7.

CoR members discussed the formation of two award subcommittees – for Early Career Research award nominees and Distinction in Research award nominees – with a minimum of three members on each subcommittee. While some CoR members expressed a willingness to serve on both committees, members ultimately agreed to postpone finalizing subcommittee memberships until after the deadline for nomination submission in order to determine any conflicts of interest.

**Action:** CoR will finalize the two award subcommittee memberships after March 9.

## IV. Revised ORU Policy

Chair Scheibner summarized the latest round of minor revisions to the policy which included adjustments to the Table of Contents. He also stated that he is finalizing a cover letter to Division Council that summarizes the major revisions to the policy that were made in response to Senate committee comments at the end of spring semester 2019.

CoR members agreed with the recent edits to the ORU policy.

**Action:** Committee analyst will circulate the revised policy and cover letter to CoR members via email for review and approval. The final policy and cover letter will be transmitted to Division Council.

V. Research Enhancement Proposal

Chair Scheibner summarized the recent additions he made to the draft research enhancement proposal. The main additions include a cost table for funding needs for campus-wide research activities and facilities and a recommendation that faculty are to receive 5% indirect cost return on any of their extramurally funded projects (rather than stating that faculty receive 5% indirect cost return on funded projects only if the full indirect is being charged to the grant).

After a brief discussion, CoR members agreed that Chair Scheibner should remove the reference to sustainability grants and diversity grants from the research enhancement proposal, given that there are existing committees on campus who are already coordinating activity in these areas. Instead, the document will be revised to state that Schools have the option to include sustainability and diversity components in their research support proposals.

Chair Scheibner is scheduling meetings with School deans in order to elicit their feedback on the estimated amount of funding they would require if particular research-related funding programs articulated in the proposal would be run in their Schools. Chair Scheibner will also meet with VPDGE Zatz to get her input on the ideas for graduate student support and professional development contained in the proposal.

**Action:** CoR will continue its discussion of the research enhancement proposal at the next meeting.

VI. Systemwide Review Item

- i. White paper: “Recognizing International Activities as Part of the Merit, Tenure, and Promotion Process at the University of California”

Background: Michael Lazzara, Associate Vice Provost for Academic Programs, Global Affairs (UC Davis) with input from UC Senior International Officers, recommend that the APM potentially be expanded to recognize and reward the internationally activities in which faculty participate.

CoR is not a lead review committee on the Senate, however, at Chair Scheibner's request, the committee reviewed the white paper. CoR members agreed with most elements in the white paper and concurred that faculty who engage in international activities should be appropriately recognized in the promotion and advancement process. However, members were concerned that this may negatively impact faculty members whose disciplines do not naturally lend themselves to international collaborations by disadvantaging them in the personnel review process.

**Action:** Committee analyst will draft a memo and send to the committee for review and approval via email. The final memo will be transmitted to the Senate Chair on February 28.

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

Attest: Michael Scheibner, CoR chair