

**Committee on Research (COR)**  
**Minutes of Meeting**  
**March 11, 2015**

Pursuant to call, the Committee on Research met at 3:00 pm on March 11, 2015 in Room 362 of the Kolligian Library, Chair David C. Noelle presiding.

I. Indirect Cost Return Update

Attending today's COR meeting were Vice Chancellor for Business and Administrative Services Michael Reese; Assistant Vice Chancellor for Finance Donna Jones, and Director of Accounting Services Kimberly Groesbeck.

Chair Noelle provided background for COR's request on indirect cost return updates. Last year, the Provost/EVC mentioned the need to restrict the extension of start up packages, as there is a perception at UCOP that the campuses have a surplus of unused funds. However, faculty members were deeply concerned about a need to exhaust their start up funds, as Merced does not have departmental or other bridge funding available for emergency expenditures, such as equipment failure. Faculty members, instead, have to ask VC ORED Traina for additional funds, or attempt to win a small Senate faculty grant. Last year, COR heard that the administration was working on a new indirect cost return model that would allow faculty members to receive a portion of extramural grant indirect costs as discretionary funds. COR met with the relevant administrators twice in AY 13-14.

Vice Chancellor Reese announced that an indirect cost return proposal has been presented to the Chancellor for her approval. The proposed model would stipulate 5% of indirect costs to be returned to faculty member PIs and Co-PIs, but only on grants that pay full indirect costs. This return would occur in arrears, and the funds would be allocated by the Office of Research and Economic Development. Another 5% would be allocated to the school deans. COR members inquired if the deans' portion would be discretionary, and VC Reese replied that he will confirm.

COR members suggested that language be added in the proposal clarifying that the funds allocated to the deans are to be set aside for faculty research purposes. Another suggestion was made to have the proposal specify that the 5% for deans should be used to benefit the research group of the PIs and Co-PIs, in preference to other faculty members in the school. COR members also suggested even greater decentralization of control of the funds, distributing them to the graduate group and bylaw 55 unit chairs rather than to the. Lastly, committee members inquired whether any of the funds will be allocated to ORUs. VC Reese stated that he will speak with Provost/EVC Peterson about COR's input.

AVC Jones announced that the approximate dollar amount of indirect cost return is \$150,000 divided among the three school deans. COR members expressed their concern that this low amount would be insufficient to cover faculty emergency funding needs, and a brief discussion was held on the political problem of some UC campuses holding an excessive amount of money in reserves, resulting in penalties at other campuses, including Merced.

AVC Jones stated that the new policy, if approved by the Chancellor, will be implemented by July 1, 2015, with the first payments being issued in the same month.

## II. Chair's Report

Chair Noelle updated the COR members on the March 9 UCORP meeting:

- The "Committee of Two", Governor Brown and UC President Napolitano, continue to negotiate over the budget. The state may have more than \$1 billion in surplus. Members of the Governor's staff are visiting UC campuses; they were at Merced last week but Senate faculty were not notified and therefore did not have the opportunity to meet with them.
- In regards to open access, UCLA has tested a harvesting system that finds publications and recommends to authors that they place the

publications into eScholarship. UCLA reported an impressive 25% response rate from their faculty. It was also mentioned that the UC maintains some rights to publications even when faculty sign copyright transfer agreements with publishers.

- Representatives from the UC Natural Reserve System presented their new strategic plan, intended, in part, to address their deteriorating resources. The strategic plan included a proposal to work with development experts to obtain funding.
- Further evidence was presented demonstrating that 3-year undergraduate degree programs lacked viability.
- The Legislature has complained about the \$3 million used to recruit out of state undergraduate students, however, \$26 million was spent recruiting in state undergraduates.
- Assemblyman Mike Gatto has proposed legislation (AB 1483) that would explore the possibility of the establishment of a new UC campus to specialize in science, technology, engineering, the arts, and mathematics (STEAM). According to reports, the proposal does not yet have the backing of the Regents.
- The systemwide Provost announced that she is drafting a job description for the replacement for former Vice President for Research and Graduate Studies Steven Beckwith.
- MRUs such as UC Mexus are undergoing their 15 year sunset reviews. The 15 year review is unique in that the MRU must make the case that it is able to continue forward rather than simply being evaluated on past achievements.
- UCORP heard a presentation from UCOP's integrated communication office that discussed the efforts to distribute news of faculty research achievements via media and print outlets.

Chair Noelle also brought to committee members' attention that the call for nominations for the annual Senate awards was submitted on March 4. COR is responsible for reviewing nominations for the Distinction in Research (tenured) Award and the Distinguished Early Career (untenured) Research Award.

**ACTION:** Two COR members volunteered to review each award. Both sets of review teams will present their rankings to the committee as a whole.

### III. Vice Chair's Report

Vice Chair Wiebe updated the COR members on the February 17 meeting of the Periodic Review Oversight Committee (PROC):

- A main item of discussion was PROC's response to the VC ORED's draft ORU review policy, which is intended to expand on the comprehensive set of policies drafted by COR and submitted to the administration in AY 13-14. PROC emphasized the need to evaluate the long term financial stability of ORUs, to clarify the makeup of the review committees, to provide a clarified review timeline, and a process involving greater integration of review reports. PROC also advocated for a standardized review process across campus and an integration of the VC ORED's policy into other campus reviews.

### IV. Consent Calendar

**ACTION:** The February 25 meeting minutes were approved as presented.

### V. Campus Review Items

Prior to this meeting, COR members received the Public Health CCGA proposal, the Global Arts Studies Program (GASP) major proposal, and the revised grade appeals policy.

A COR member volunteered to take the lead on reviewing the Public Health CCGA proposal and will submit his review in time for the April 8 COR meeting, where the committee will vote on the contents of a proposed response memo.

**ACTION:** The Senate chair will be informed that COR has no comments on the GASP major proposal or the revised grade appeals policy.

## VI. Systemwide Review Items

Prior to this meeting, COR members received the proposed revisions to the Presidential Policy on Sexual Harassment and Sexual Violence and the proposed revisions to Senate Bylaw 128.D.2 pertaining to systemwide committee vice chairs.

**ACTION:** The Senate chair will be informed that COR has no comments on the revisions to the Presidential Policy and endorses the proposed revisions to Senate Bylaw 128.D.2.

## VII. Senate Faculty Research Grants

The call for proposals was submitted on March 6. This item was tabled for the April 8 COR meeting where the committee will discuss prioritizing evaluation criteria.

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

Attest: David C. Noelle, COR Chair

Minutes prepared by: Simrin Takhar, Senate Analyst