

Committee on Research (COR)**Tuesday, March 13, 2018****10:30 am – 12:00 pm, KL 362**

Pursuant to the call, the Committee on Research met at 10:30 am on Tuesday, March 13, 2018 in Room 362 of the Kolligian Library, Chair David C. Noelle presiding.

- I. Consultation with Director of Procurement
 - a. Director of Procurement Josh Dubroff updated COR members on developments since his Fall 2017 consultation with COR. He also responded to specific questions from COR members.
 - i. The campus is preparing to move forward with adopting the Jaggaer catalog procurement system. The system will be rolled out by the end of this calendar year with a pilot group, and full implementation is planned for Spring 2019. If implementation goes as planned, Jaggaer will replace Cat Buy. Staff, faculty, and (some) students will have access to the Jaggaer system. The new system will be an excellent opportunity for the campus to standardize purchasing workflow. It represents the first phase in a multi-year effort to improve the campus supply chain process.
 - ii. The Procurement unit was given a new staff position that will manage and resolve daily purchasing issues, as well as coordinate with Accounts Payable.
 - iii. Over the past year, the Procurement unit has significantly reduced its response time to requests. It has also resolved several long-standing issues involving unpaid invoices. Procurement staff are participating in the purchasing aspect of the 2020 project, with commodity managers assisting with streamlining purchases of furniture and other items.
 - iv. Implementation of The Office of Management and Budget's (OMB) Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards (commonly known as "Uniform Guidance") occurred in December 2014. OMB delayed implementation of the procurement standards for micro-purchases due to concerns from federal grant recipients over the threshold dollar amount that requires the solicitation of multiple price quotes prior to procurement. OMB is currently reviewing the threshold, and Director Dubroff will keep COR informed of the final dollar amount.
 - v. Director Dubroff plans to hold an Open House for the campus community to learn about the improvements and developments in the Procurement unit, and he asked for COR's help in advertising this event. As the date of the event draws closer, Director Dubroff will provide COR with detailed information so that COR can help communicate the event to the relevant people.

- vi. In response to a COR member's question about whether the Procurement unit will expand its capacity given the number of additional faculty hires through 2020, Director Dubroff stated that he, as other units, will be short of FTE, but he was confident that the current staff is sufficient for streamlining low dollar amount orders while focusing on high-level sourcing and strategic activities, as well as obtaining the technology needed to succeed at current staffing levels. If additional staff are needed, Procurement may hire temporary staff. Director Dubroff added that, in anticipation of extensive faculty hiring, his unit plans to get ahead of the process in terms of purchasing needs for new faculty members.
- vii. A COR member asked about the paying of vendors. Director Dubroff replied that his staff was working on improvements, such as electronic payments replacing paper checks. He also reported that some transactions have initially gone into the system with no purchase order numbers or other identifying information and have consequently been held up by UCLA. His staff has fixed most of these issues, and he is hopeful that new technology will prevent these issues in the future.
- viii. Director Dubroff clarified for a COR member that all orders made for laboratories must receive administrative approval, as it is a requirement from the federal government that PIs must receive approval on items purchased on federal grant money. A staff member is tasked with reviewing each such order, so that auditors are satisfied that these purchases have the appropriate oversight. He reiterated that the Jaggaer ordering system should make the process easier.
- ix. A COR member asked how to improve communication between departments/units and Receiving, as his specialized equipment has sometimes been damaged due to incorrect handling. Director Dubroff replied that his unit will work with Receiving to produce a better workflow, but he emphasized that Receiving is understaffed and is faced with the task of sorting and delivering hundreds of packages per day.
- x. COR members appreciated the planned improvements mentioned by Director Dubroff but requested that he continue to fix immediate and urgent issues that affect faculty members' research.
- xi. A COR member suggested that a summary of today's conversation with Director Dubroff be issued to all faculty as a point of information.
Action: COR analyst to draft a summary for COR and Director Dubroff's review. A final message will be sent to all faculty from both parties.

II. Chair's Report

- a. Chair Noelle updated COR members on the March 6 Division Council meeting:
 - i. The main topic of discussion was the proposed amendment to Senate Bylaw 128 that recently underwent Senate review. The proposed amendment proposed a formal process by which members on systemwide committees report their and

others' conflicts of interest. The Committee for Diversity & Equity questioned the amendment's suggestion that the member with the potential conflict may "choose" to limit his/her participation. Division Council recommended a minor revision to the amendment specifying that the member with the potential conflict should consult with their committee chair.

- ii. Division Council members also briefly mentioned the ongoing issues surrounding the implementation of the general education program.
- b. Chair Noelle updated COR members on the March 12 UCORP meeting:
 - i. UCORP consulted with Christine Gulbranson, Senior Vice President of Research Innovation & Entrepreneurship. Faculty are asked to watch for the annual "I am a UC entrepreneur" campaign, in which UC researchers showcase their entrepreneurial efforts. Venture capitalists will also be available to help faculty "commercialize" their research.
 - ii. Additional revisions to the export control policy are forthcoming.
 - iii. The NSF has implemented new conditions for reporting incidences of sexual harassment and sexual violence. UC/systemwide leadership find some elements problematic with regard to IRB oversight, and they believe the NSF will hold further conversations about policy changes.
 - iv. UCORP discussed issues around cannabis research within the context of federal law.
 - v. Request for Proposals for the 2019 UC National Laboratory In-Residence Graduate Fellowships, offered by the UC National Laboratory Fees Research Program, will soon be issued.
 - vi. UCORP members had additional conversations about the ongoing five-year MRU review of the Institute of Transportation Studies.
- c. Chair Noelle met with research computing faculty who are drafting a proposal for research computing shared governance. They are interested in working with COR on this topic. Chair Noelle will provide additional information as he receives it.

III. Consent Calendar

- a. **Action:** The March 13 Meeting Agenda and the February 27 COR Meeting Minutes were approved as presented.

IV. Senate Faculty Research Grants

- a. Forty-two proposals have been received. Using the two main review criteria of time since last award and distributing funds equitably across the Schools, Chair Noelle presented a set of draft awarded proposals for the Committee's review. COR members were satisfied with the initial list, but then held a discussion on how to rank the remaining "borderline" proposals based on evidence of need while bearing in mind the statement in the Call for Proposals that COR will award one multi-PI proposal per School. It was also agreed that members will not review proposals from their own Schools.
 - i. **Action:** Chair Noelle will distribute a revised list of ranked proposals highlighting only those borderline proposals that COR members must rank

based on evidence of need. Individual rankings of need are to be submitted to the COR analyst by Monday, April 2 for review at the Tuesday, April 3 COR meeting, when the final list of awardees will be created.

- V. Campus Review Items
- a. Carry forward policy.
 - i. COR members initially reviewed the policy at the last meeting, but due to a lack of quorum, had to table the discussion for consideration during today's meeting. COR members viewed the policy favorably, but requested clarification on situations where departments/units retain a portion of the incidental funds allocated to faculty. Specifically, are these monies still considered incidental funds under the carry forward policy, and can the departments/units continue to accumulate them?
 - ii. **Action:** COR analyst to submit a memo to the Senate Chair by the deadline of 5:00 pm on March 14.
 - b. Proposal for a Program of Graduate Studies in Materials and Biomaterials Science and Engineering (MBSE) for the M.S. and Ph.D. Degrees. CAPRA, UGC, and GC are lead reviewers.
 - i. **Action:** COR members to discuss via email.
 - c. Proposal for a Political Science Honors Program
Political Science has proposed the establishment of an honors program. UGC and CAPRA are lead reviewers.
 - i. **Action:** COR members to discuss via email.
 - d. A Proposal for a Program of Graduate Studies in Management of Complex Systems in Pursuit of an M.S. and a Ph.D. Degree offered by the Graduate Group in Management of Innovation, Sustainability and Technology. GC, CAPRA, and UGC are lead reviewers.
 - i. **Action:** COR members to discuss via email.
 - e. Interim Policy on Expressive Activities and Assembly: Protests, Demonstrations, Non-University Speakers and Posting on Campus and in University Facilities. FWF is the lead reviewer.
 - i. **Action:** COR members to discuss via email.
- VI. Systemwide Review Item
- a. Presidential Policy on Supplement to Military Pay
 - i. The proposal provides eligible employees with supplemental payments equal to the difference between the employees' University pay and their active military duty pay for a period not to exceed the employee's tour of active military duty, until June 30, 2022 or until the separation date of an employee's University appointment, whichever comes first. FWF is the lead reviewer.
 - ii. **Action:** COR members to discuss via email.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 12:00 pm.

Attest: David C. Noelle, COR Chair