

Committee on Research (CoR)
Minutes of Meeting
March 28, 2022

Pursuant to call, the Committee on Research met at 10:30 am – 12:00 pm on March 28, 2022 via Zoom. Chair Jason Sexton presiding.

I. Chair's Report – *Chair Sexton*

A. March 10 Divisional Council meeting:

- Senate Chair Westerling met with Regent Pérez during the latter's recent visit to UC Merced and spoke about other UC campus's proposals for fully online degrees. Such programs would negatively impact UC Merced's ability to increase enrollment. Regent Pérez praised UC Merced's undergraduate research experience and the successful moving of a large demographic of students from undergraduate studies to graduate studies. Interim VCORED Zatz informed CoR members that she and other faculty members attended a meeting with Regent Pérez where they shared their research and received Regent Pérez's input on various issues.
- GC and UGC chairs and some members of the administration expect reluctance from students and faculty about removing their masks in classrooms if mask mandate is lifted.
- GC and UGC chairs discussed accommodations for remote instruction beyond spring 2022, specifically, the role of the Senate and the role of the departments in granting accommodation requests.
- Discussion of the proposed Policy on the Use of the University of California and UC Merced Names, Network, Electronic and Online Sites and Accounts, and Responses to Media Inquiries. Divisional Council members agreed with other Senate committees and School Executive Committees that the proposed policy is problematic.
- Consultation with SNS Dean Betsy Dumont and Medical Education Director Thelma Hurd. At the Senate Chair's request, Dean Dumont and Director Hurd will submit a preliminary plan to Divisional Council on the medical education program with the rationale that the current Council membership is calibrated to review the plan as opposed to a new Council membership in the next academic year. A CoR member stated that medical education is being discussed in SSHA, specifically the undergraduate education and resources aspects. There is also concern about the name change of the future building for human health sciences to specifically reflect medical education; SSHA faculty who were scheduled to move into the new building are now unclear about future plans. Interim VCORED Zatz replied that

building a medical school at UC Merced has been a goal of the constituents of the San Joaquin Valley since before the campus was established. Medical Education Director Hurd was hired for the purpose of establishing a medical education program at UC Merced. Interim VCORED Zatz acknowledged that faculty probably feel as though plans for the medical education program are moving rapidly and that is because of the availability of funding and support the campus has recently received. She added that the new building will house programs for both medical education and health and therefore nothing has changed in terms of which SSHA faculty will move there. She suggested more robust communication between the Senate and the administration to ensure that faculty needs are met while still utilizing the support and resources offered by the state and donors.

- II. Consultation with AVC & Export Control Officer - Leslie Teixeira-Porto
 - A. Communicating reporting requirements regarding foreign influence to faculty
AVC Teixeira-Porto presented a series of slides to CoR on the UC foreign influence audit. The audit was prompted by heightened awareness and increased activity related to foreign influence in academia within the federal government. Federal funding agencies have issued new requirements and guidance, federal law enforcement agencies have increased prosecutorial activity, and Congress has signed new legislation and sought information on how the academic research community is responding to this evolving issue.

The UC audit recommendation was that UC Merced modify the protocols to detect undisclosed faculty affiliations and implement them locally. AVC Teixeira-Porto asked CoR how they want to be involved in this process: CoR could identify a representative to serve on a campus committee to implement the relevant policies, or, AVC Teixeira-Porto could periodically attend CoR meetings and provide updates. CoR members agreed that regular consultation with AVC Teixeira-Porto would be the more efficient option.

AVC Teixeira-Porto urged faculty to speak with ORED about any questions regarding disclosures of foreign collaborations and stressed the need for disclosures to be complete and truthful. She cited the case of a former Harvard professor who was found guilty of concealing his affiliation with the Wuhan University of Technology and his participation in China's Thousand Talents Program.

A CoR member suggested that when AVC Teixeira-Porto meets with the deans, she suggest to them that more departmental staff would be beneficial to help faculty with their compliance documentation.

AVC Teixeira-Porto then sought CoR's input on training. The Ethics and Compliance Briefing (ECB) is required for all UC employees including faculty and staff. The Ethics and Compliance Briefing for Researchers (ECBR) is currently required of all researchers with grants from a federal funding agency that has adopted Public Health Service Financial Conflict of Interest requirements. If a researcher receives federal funding after taking the ECB, they will also have to take the ECB. AVC Teixeira-Porto recommended that all researchers take the ECB and asked CoR members if they agree with her assigning this training to all faculty. A CoR member pointed out that the training is not tailored to all faculty's research. AVC Teixeira-Porto acknowledged that not all of the ECBR is applicable to all faculty but is beneficial for understanding conflict of interest and conflict of commitment issues. Another CoR member raised the issue of faculty workload and lack of time for additional training requirements and asked if UC Merced's non-compliance rate is a cause for concern.

Action: AVC Teixeira-Porto will attend another CoR meeting to continue the ECBR discussion.

AVC Teixeira-Porto explained to CoR that another recommendation resulting from the UC audit is to implement a local foreign influence risk communication plan taking into consideration the systemwide guidance. She asked for CoR's input on how to communicate with faculty. A CoR member suggested that AVC Teixeira-Porto attend faculty meetings in addition to issuing memos and emails.

B. Lab Safety Day

Lab Safety Day will be held in September and planned activities include vendor showcase demos/trainings, Excellence in Laboratory Safety awards, and schedule hazardous waste removal.

Action: CoR members to email AVC Teixeira-Porto with any suggestions for Lab Safety Day activities.

III. Consultation with Interim VCORED Zatz

A. New IDCR policy (sent to all faculty 3/21)

The highlights of the policy are:

- The PIs' share of IDCR will increase from 5% to 7.5%, with the exception of when a grant is supported by an ORU. In this case the PI receives 6.25% and the ORU 1.25%;
- 2.5% of IDCR will be retained by the PI's department, with the exception of when a grant is supported by an ORU. In this case the PI's department

will received 1.25% and the ORU 1.25%;

- A PI's dean will receive 5% of the IDCR with the exception of when the PI's grant is supported by an ORU. In this case the dean and the ORU will each receive 2.5% of the IDCR;
- The Provost's office and ORED each receive 5% of the IDCR;
- IDCR will be awarded on all grants, not just those that are fully encumbered, and pro-rated based on the percentage of IDCR provided relative to a fully encumbered grant.

B. Research opportunities with Mexico

Interim VCORED Zatz updated CoR members on Alianza UCMX which was formed through the integration of three UC programs: the UC Institute for Mexico and the United States (UC MEXUS), the UC-Mexico Initiative, and Casa de la Universidad de California en Mexico (Casa de California). UC Riverside serves as the host campus for Alianza UCMX. The UC VCRs (including Interim VCORED Zatz), the Chancellor of Riverside, and the Chancellor of UC Merced will travel to Mexico at various times this year to meet with researchers and government officials.

C. Visits by CA Secretaries and Regents

The Chancellor brought the Secretary of the California Department of Food and Agriculture, the Secretary for the California Department of Natural Resources, and UC Regents to campus to meet with faculty and students and build relationships. Interim VCORED Zatz also informed CoR members of Assembly Bill 2046 entitled "University of California: Inland Rising Fund" that proposes the allocation of about \$1.5 billion to be divided between UC Merced and UC Riverside for a variety of initiatives. Even if the final funding amount is less than \$1.5 billion (assuming the bill is passed and approved) any increased funding will be beneficial to UC Merced.

IV. Consent Calendar

- A. Today's agenda
- B. Draft February 28 meeting minutes

Action: the Consent Calendar was approved as presented.

V. Centers Policy

In fall 2021, a CoR policy subcommittee revised the campus Centers policy. Timeline:

- CoR submitted the revised policy to the administration on October 28, 2021 and invited their review.
- The administration submitted comments to CoR on December 3, 2021.

- The CoR policy subcommittee took the administration’s comments into account and submitted an updated version of the policy to the administration on January 10, 2022.
- The administration’s comments on the second round of review were submitted to CoR on January 19, 2022.
- CoR Chair Sexton and Interim VCORED Zatz have incorporated the administration’s second set of revisions. The revised policy was hyperlinked on today’s agenda.

CoR Chair Sexton and Interim VCORED Zatz briefly summarized the recent edits they made to the updated Centers policy. A CoR member suggested adding equity, diversity, and inclusion as an aspect of the university mission that a Center could help advance. CoR members had no additional suggestions or objections to the revised policy.

Action: The draft Centers policy will be revised to include the equity, diversity, inclusion language. CoR members will review and approve the policy by Wednesday, March 30. At that time, the updated policy will be transmitted to Divisional Council for Senate review.

VI. Systemwide Review Item

A. Presidential Policy on UC Research Data

This is the second systemwide review for this policy. The following items were hyperlinked on today’s agenda: revised policy in redline and clean formats, an FAQ, CoR’s comments from AY 20-21, all previous comments on the first version of the policy, and the comments from CoR’s lead reviewer on the proposed revisions to the policy.

CoR members discussed the lead reviewer’s comments and agreed that the proposed revisions are reasonable.

Action: the committee analyst will distribute a draft memo for the committee’s review and approval. CoR’s comments are due to the Senate Chair by 5:00 pm on Wednesday, March 30.

VII. Campus Review Item

A. New MAPP section 283

The new MAPP section serves to implement the university policy on Lecturers and Senior Lecturers (APM 283) and the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for the Non-Senate Faculty Instructional Unit (Unit 18).

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

VIII. Other Business

A. Request to CoC: expand CoR membership due to workload

Given the increase in CoR's workload this year and the increase in the number of requests for CoR representation on campus committees, CoR Chair Sexton will request an additional CoR member from CoC.

B. MacKenzie Scott gift plan update

CoR Chair Sexton informed the committee that Divisional Council approved the proposed spending plan. However, future Divisional Council memberships will have the flexibility to change the allocations.

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

Attest: Jason Sexton, CoR Chair