

Committee on Research (CoR)
Minutes of Meeting
April 1, 2021

Pursuant to call, the Committee on Research met at 1:00 – 2:30 pm on April 1, 2021, via Zoom. Chair Kara McCloskey presiding.

- I. Chair's Report – *Kara McCloskey*
 - A. March 12 Divisional Council meeting.
 - i. Divisional Council endorsed the proposed change of terms to the Thondapu Endowed Chair. The chair's scope was originally bioengineering and has been revised to focus on medical education.
 - ii. Divisional Council endorsed the proposed, second Presidential Chair in Humanities.
 - iii. Divisional Council members discussed their concerns about the proposed Presidential Policy BFB-BUS-43 Purchases of Goods and Services; Supply Chain Management
 - B. March 29 Divisional Council meeting.
 - i. Divisional Council had a discussion with the LASC Chair and University Librarian on the importance of consulting with the Library when drafting proposals for new academic programs, Schools, and ORUs.
 - j. Divisional Council members discussed FWAF's suggestion to add a Teaching Professor to CAP's membership.
 - k. Divisional Council members discussed their concerns with the Universitywide Police Policies and Administrative Procedures.

- II. Consent Calendar
 - A. Today's agenda
 - B. Approval of draft minutes from the March 11 meeting.

Action: the Consent Calendar was approved as presented.

- III. Consultation with Derek Devnich – LAUCM Representative
 - A. Library's current plans for Software and Data Carpentries workshops. Devnich discussed the Carpentries program, professional development for junior researchers in research computing: Library Carpentry, Data Carpentry, and Software Carpentry.
The academic year workshops to date are:
 - Software Carpentry
 - Plotting and programming in Python
 - R for reproducible scientific analysis

- The Unix Shell
- Version control with GIT
- Data Carpentry
 - Data analysis and visualization in Python for ecologists
 - Data analysis and visualization in R for ecologists
 - Introduction to R for geospatial data
 - Data management with SQL for ecologists
 - Cleaning data with Open Refine

Incoming graduate student workshops:

- Data analysis and visualization in Python (short)
- Data analysis and visualization in R (short)
- The Unix Shell
- Version control with GIT

Additional Topic Options:

- Current curricula
 - Ecology
 - Genomics
 - Social Sciences
 - Geospatial Data
- Under development
 - Image Processing
 - Economics
 - Astronomy
 - Digital Humanities
 - Others

Devnich asked CoR members for input on additional workshops they believe would be useful for graduate students, postdocs, and untenured faculty moving forward. A CoR member recommended that Devnich consult with faculty affiliated with the campus Center for Cellular and Biomolecular Machines, the campus Women in STEM group, and Interim VPDGE Kello. Another CoR member expressed an interest in collaborating with Devnich on bootcamps and workshops for students and faculty on functional genomics.

IV. Consultation with Interim VCORED Zatz

A. Research relaunch plans for summer and fall 2021

Interim VCORED Zatz informed CoR members that the campus is not increasing density yet and must abide by state laws and rules. The campus cannot increase density even if a faculty member's entire lab group has been vaccinated against COVID-19. She added that it is not permitted to ask an individual if they have been vaccinated. The campus received approval this morning for researchers doing human subjects/behavioral research: their subjects can be on campus as "invited

guests” as long as faculty researchers do not have to touch them (the subjects must place instruments on themselves or work on computers). Physical distancing and sanitization protocols must be in place and researchers must keep a log of the individuals who arrive and depart the space. Additional protocols are forthcoming. Interim VCORED Zatz asked faculty members to contact her if they are experiencing any problems with being able to conduct research on campus.

The BSP building is on schedule for reopening. The SRE building will have a fire test to hopefully avoid the problems experienced in the BSP building.

B. Update on occupational health (animal care)

UC Merced has an agreement with Sansum and is developing another with Mobile Med. Yesterday was the last day of UC Davis’s agreement with UC Merced. Most occupational health issues have been resolved.

C. ORED staffing/reorgs.

Interim VCORED Zatz has received approval to search for and hire an Assistant Vice Chancellor for Research Integrity and Compliance to partially replace former AVC Motton as well as a tech transfer director. CoR members then reported their continuing problems with Oracle/Alpha Financials. One committee member inquired how the system was implemented and whether faculty were consulted. Interim VCORED Zatz responded that she can pass along CoR’s concerns to APAPB Schnier who is overseeing the improvements to Alpha Financials and CBS2. She added that other campuses who implemented Alpha Financials experienced the same problems. UC Merced had to adopt a new system because we could no longer rely on UCLA. CoR members wondered if APAPB Schnier should be invited to a future CoR meeting.

V. Instrumentation Grant Proposal Rubric

Instrumentation grant proposals are due to ORED by April 1. CoR members will review them and make funding recommendations to Interim VCORED Zatz by April 15.

CoR members discussed the timeline and agreed to send their individual rankings to the committee chair and analyst by April 13. The CoR chair will combine the rankings and send to Interim VCORED Zatz. At the April 15 CoR meeting, members will make their final funding recommendations to VCORED Zatz. Zatz will then issue award/decline notifications to PIs after the meeting.

Action: CoR Chair McCloskey will draft a review rubric which the committee analyst will distribute to CoR members for review and approval.

VI. Systemwide Review Items

A. Presidential Policy on Classification of Gifts and Sponsored Awards

This policy is intended to replace the UC Policy on Review of Gifts and Grants for Research. The UC has seen a significant increase in external support in the recent decade – especially from private foundations (including family foundations) and corporations. Though key concepts remain the same, the proposed policy provides greater clarity for properly classifying private support in contemporary circumstances.

CoR members discussed the lead reviewer's comments and made one suggestion.

Action: The committee analyst will send the revised memo to CoR members for review and approval. CoR's comments are due to the Senate Chair by 5:00 pm on Monday, April 12.

B. Proposed Presidential Policy on Native American Cultural Affiliation and Repatriation
The Academic Senate opined on two earlier versions of this policy on November 8, 2019 and June 29, 2020.

On July 24, 2020, President Napolitano issued the Policy as interim in order to allow tribes additional time for review due to the COVID-19 pandemic. At that time, the comment period was extended through November 15, 2020, with the intention that UC would issue a final updated Policy by December 31, 2020. On September 29, 2020, AB 275 which made substantial changes to the CalNAGPRA was signed into law, effective January 1, 2021. The prevailing concern communicated by the responding tribes and the California Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) during the extended comment period was that the Interim Policy did not reflect these new requirements. Respondents urged UC not to implement a final Policy by December 31, 2020, but rather to delay issuance and allocate additional time to ensure that AB 275 could be fully incorporated into the Policy. This revised Policy now incorporates AB 275 requirements.

CoR members discussed the lead reviewer's comments and made one addition.

Action: The committee analyst will distribute the revised memo to CoR for review and approval. CoR's comments are due to the Senate Chair by 5:00 pm on Monday, April 5.

C. Sexual Violence and Sexual Harassment Investigation and Adjudication Framework for Senate and Non-Senate Faculty

Non-Senate Faculty (“Faculty Framework”) and the Sexual Violence and Sexual Harassment Investigation and Adjudication Framework for Staff and Non-Faculty Academic Personnel (“Staff and NFAP Framework”).

CoR identified a lead reviewer.

Action: The lead reviewer’s comments will be discussed via email. CoR’s comments are due to the Senate Chair by 5:00 pm on Friday, April 9.

- VII. Executive Session – voting members only
No minutes were recorded.

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

Attest: Kara McCloskey, CoR chair