

Committee on Research (CoR)
Minutes of Meeting
April 15, 2021

Pursuant to call, the Committee on Research met at 1:00 – 2:30 pm on April 15, 2021, via Zoom.
Chair Kara McCloskey presiding.

I. Consultation with Senate Chair/Campus Repatriation Coordinator DeLugan

The UC Office of the President (UCOP) issued the Native American Cultural Affiliation and Repatriation Interim Policy on July 24, 2020, to clarify the process by which all UC campuses will implement the Federal Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) and California NAGPRA (CaINAGPRA). NAGPRA protects Native American graves and requires repatriation of Native American human remains and certain cultural items (funerary objects, sacred objects and objects of cultural patrimony).

DeLugan explained to CoR that the implementation of the policy will be a coordinated effort between the ten UC campuses. UC Merced does not have such holdings as described in the policy, but per the awareness memo previously distributed to the campus from VPAP Matlock, faculty are encouraged to contact Matlock or DeLugan with questions. The policy requires a survey to be issued to all faculty and staff in all units and departments in which faculty and staff must attest that they do not have any holdings as described in the policy in their space. This survey will be issued every 3-5 years but an awareness memo will be distributed each year.

DeLugan pointed out that the policy enables UC Merced to engage with tribes in our region and build relationships.

A CoR member raised the issue of the duties of the repatriation coordinator as required by the policy. DeLugan replied that UC Davis's coordinator will help UC Merced. Another CoR member stated that faculty should make their teaching and research attentive to indigenous people as living communities rather than as people who have vanished. She also pointed out that UC Merced's sustainability initiative will be affected, i.e. we have to imagine sustainable practices that would respect the land and histories of the tribes that are still in the region. DeLugan agreed and stated that the California Native American Heritage Commission will assist in finding solutions.

II. Consent Calendar

A. Today's agenda

B. Approval of draft minutes from the April 1 meeting

Action: the Consent Calendar was approved as presented.

III. Chair's Report – *Kara McCloskey*

A. Update from April 12 UCORP meeting

The main topic of discussion was the review of multi campus research units (MRUs) as well as a process for the review of non-MRUs.

IV. Campus Review Items

A. Proposal for a Minor in Materials Science and Engineering

CoR selected a lead reviewer. Chair McCloskey will recuse from voting and from participating in drafting the memo as she is an MSE faculty member.

Action: The lead reviewer's comments will be discussed at the April 29 CoR meeting. CoR's comments are due to the Senate Chair by 5:00 pm on Friday, April 30.

B. Draft Strategic Plan (2021-2031)

CoR selected two lead reviewers.

Action: The lead reviewers' comments will be discussed at the April 29 CoR meeting. CoR's comments are due to the Senate Chair by 5:00 pm on Monday, May 3.

V. Systemwide Review Item

A. Proposed Presidential Policy: UC Health Participation in Activities under the End of Life Option Act

CoR selected a lead reviewer.

Action: The lead reviewer's comments will be discussed at the April 29 CoR meeting. CoR's comments are due to the Senate Chair by 5:00 pm on Friday, April 30.

VI. Instrumentation Grant Proposals

Prior to this meeting, CoR members reviewed and ranked the instrumentation grant proposals that were submitted to ORED. After a lengthy discussion, CoR members and the interim VCORED agreed on a list of the top proposals that will receive the \$200,000 in allocated funding from the Chancellor and EVC/Provost. Interim VCORED Zatz suggested she could inform the Chancellor that if he wishes to allocate money again next year for instrumentation, CoR already has a list of meritorious proposals. CoR members suggested continuing the discussion at the next CoR meeting.

Action: Interim VCORED Zatz will issue award/declines letters to faculty PIs.

VII. Consultation with Interim VCORED

ORED is hosting a UC Lab Fees Workshop May 3 and 4 with LANL and LLNL on Frontiers of Mesoscale Materials and High Energy Density Science.

VIII. 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