

Committee on Research (CoR)
Minutes of Meeting
April 17, 2019

Pursuant to call, the Committee on Research met at 2:30 pm on April 17, 2019 in Room 362 of the Kolligian Library, Chair Michael Scheibner presiding.

I. Chair's Report

Chair Scheibner updated CoR members on the following:

- UCORP meeting April 8. The main topics of discussion included:
 - Negotiations between UC and Elsevier
 - Proposed new APM 011 pertaining to the academic freedom of non-faculty academic appointees (APM 011); this is currently undergoing Senate review
 - Updates on admissions scandal
 - The reports for the current MRU reviews were finalized. The upcoming MRU reviews are National Observatories and the Bioengineering Institute of California. There was a discussion on whether the review of MRUs should be flexible given they are different in size and scope, e.g. should reviews for MRUs that receive no funding simply be on a short form with a detailed to discussion to follow only if questions arise?
 - Updates on the UC unmanned aircraft policy
 - Research information management system is being marketed to campus Chancellors but these discussions have bypassed faculty. These systems use simplified metrics to evaluate faculty impact factors and there is lack of transparency in the algorithm. In addition, some believe there is manipulation of data sets during campus demonstrations of these systems.
 - Consultation with systemwide leadership on UCOP's division of Research and Graduate Studies
 - Call for Proposals for the 2019 UC Lab Fees Research Program was recently issued. The topics are: accelerator research, quantum information science, and wildfire-related research. Workshops on each topic have been scheduled and additional information can be found UCOP's Research Initiatives [website](#).
 - UC Irvine is hosting a workshop on cannabis research on May 30
 - Discussion on faculty discretionary funding and low-level research support, e.g. office and lab computers
- Division Council meeting April 15. The main items of discussion included:
 - LASC's proposal to modify its membership structure to adopt an at-large model

- Request from Librarians Association of the University of California-Merced regarding participation in certain Senate committees
 - Discussion of the various online systems faculty must use and the challenges surrounding the usage
 - UCSF is seeking alliances with other health care providers as they are running out of beds. The UC is being encouraged to re-evaluate its alliance with faith-based hospitals who can decline to perform health procedures for both men and women.
- Meeting of the Division April 15
 - The Chancellor and EVC/Provost provided campus and systemwide updates. Most notably, the Chancellor announced upcoming plans to create a health clinic in Merced for the use of UC Merced faculty and staff. The clinic, offered jointly by UCSF-Fresno, may offer services a few times a week then expand their hours based on demand. It is anticipated that initial services would include internal and family medicine, with specialists joining the clinic as necessary.

II. Budget Working Group update

CoR member Subramaniam, who is the committee's representative on the campus Budget Working Group, referred the committee to the Working Group's March 18 documents that were linked from today's CoR agenda. The two main discussion items at the BWG meeting were the Library funding model and Summer Session programs. Member Subramaniam asked CoR members to send him any feedback on these two items in advance of the BWG's next meeting of April 22.

III. Consent Calendar

Action: due to lack of quorum, the approval of the consent calendar will be handled via email.

IV. Future of Senate Faculty Grants Program

CoR members continued their discussion on ways to modify the Senate faculty grants program. Ideas included heavier engagement with donor relations; a possible requirement in the Call for Proposals that PIs must identify an external partner to match funds; and ways to reduce campus expenses (e.g. the phasing out of office phones) to free up funds for research.

This discussion will be continued at the May 1 meeting.

V. Campus Review Items

- Proposed salary recovery policy as drafted by the campus Budget Working Group

Prior to this meeting, a draft memo of comments was distributed for CoR members' review. CoR members made the following comments on the policy: support the concept of "Protected Research Time" but requests that it be accounted for in the extramural grant application process; the policy should clearly state that both deans and department chairs are aware of their responsibilities; modify the policy to allow for an average buyout rate over at least a two-year time period; and clarification on the definition of instructional workload. Finally, CoR members noted that the policy includes a comparison to UC Santa Barbara but incorrectly references "semester". Given that this campus operates on the quarter system, CoR suggests modifying the reference to reflect yearly teaching load.

Action: CoR members to finalize the revised, draft memo via email before 5:00 pm on Monday, April 22.

- Academic Planning Working Group proposal

CoR identified a lead reviewer.

Action: the lead reviewer's comments will be discussed at the May 1 meeting. CoR's memo is due to the Senate Chair by 5:00 pm on Monday, May 6.

- Department Chairs Duties document

CoR identified a lead reviewer.

Action: the lead reviewer's comments will be discussed at the May 1 meeting. CoR's memo is due to the Senate Chair by 5:00 pm on Monday, May 6.

VI. Systemwide Review Items

- UC Center Sacramento assessment report

CoR identified a lead reviewer.

Action: the lead reviewer's comments will be discussed at the May 1 meeting. CoR's memo is due to the Senate Chair by 5:00 pm on Monday, May 6.

- Proposed new APM 011: academic freedom for non-faculty academic appointees

CoR identified a lead reviewer but a co-lead reviewer was requested. Committee analyst will seek another reviewer via email.

Action: the lead reviewers' comments will be discussed at the May 1 meeting. CoR's memo is due to the Senate Chair by 5:00 pm on Monday, May 6.

VII. Policy on Minors in Labs

Prior to this meeting, a CoR member shared, with permission from his school colleagues, concerns from some faculty regarding the policy requiring background checks prior to faculty members' contact with students who are minors. While faculty themselves are not opposed to undergoing checks, they inquire whether these checks are required from post docs and graduate students, some of whom have personal reasons not to undergo a background check. In addition, faculty are wondering if all individuals in a lab – including the minor students themselves – are required to undergo background checks before working together. There is also a question about whether the policy applies to an internship setting between a student and PI, or a camp setting with groups of students in a lab with faculty and other lab personnel. The CoR member reported that faculty are working with the UCM administrator who is part of implementing the local version of the systemwide policy on minors in labs and the member will keep CoR updated as developments occur.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:00 pm.

Attest: Michael Scheibner, CoR chair