

Committee on Research (CoR)
Minutes of Meeting
April 17, 2024

Pursuant to call, the Committee on Research met at 1:00 pm on April 17, 2024, in the Administration Building Room 345. Chair Tao Ye presiding.

I. Chair's Report – *Chair Ye*

A. April 8 UCORP meeting

- There is concern about the inadequate amount of faculty consultation in the new round of contract negotiations as faculty's knowledge of, and experience in, graduate education, research, and grants is critical.
- UCOP is addressing campus climate issues, specifically those around the Middle East conflict. Some universities are inclined toward institutional neutrality and providing an environment for civil and open exchange. It is unclear what stance the UC system will take.
- The state budget outlook is negative but the Governor's May revise of the budget will provide updated numbers. The status of the faculty salary increase is unknown at this time.
- UCOP issued an RFP to vendors for a new system of backing up research data. The UC may migrate away from Box.
- CoR Chair Ye helped design Oracle-related survey questions for other campus CoR chairs to send to their faculty. Chair Ye will provide an update at the May 1 CoR meeting.

B. April 15 Divisional Council meeting

- Consultation with EVC/Provost Dumont who is meeting with various constituents on campus to get their priorities for both short term and long term.
- Faculty morale seems to be improving but it varies. Some departments are struggling to deliver their curriculum due to faculty losses.
- The Financial Management Task Force recently issued a communication to the campus.

A CoR member suggested inviting EVC/Provost Dumont to a meeting.

Action: The committee analyst will invite the EVC/Provost to the May 15 CoR meeting and will provide her with CoR's questions in advance of the meeting.

II. Executive Session

Chair Ye called for a spontaneous executive session. This session was for voting members only and no minutes were recorded.

III. Consent Calendar

- A. Today's agenda
- B. Draft April 3 meeting minutes

Action: The Consent Calendar was approved as presented.

IV. Campus Review Item

- A. Five-Year Planning Perspectives 2024 - 2029

Action: CoR will continue reviewing via email. This item will be added to the May 1 meeting agenda. If CoR opines, comments are due to the Senate Chair by Friday, May 3.

V. Core Facilities Survey Summaries and Recommendations

CoR members reviewed Chair Ye's draft memo prior to this meeting and the memo was also linked on today's agenda. CoR members suggested added language about the continued evaluation of core facilities staff, recognizing positive staff performance, and emphasizing the need for collaboration between core facilities staff.

CoR members suggested sending a message to the faculty to thank them for taking the core facilities survey in fall 2023. Chair Ye suggested this message could go in the weekly Senate Digest.

Action: CoR will continue reviewing Chair Ye's draft memo. The committee analyst will transmit the final memo to Divisional Council on April 23 for Divisional Council's discussion at their April 29 meeting. CoR will request that Divisional Council endorse the memo and forward it to the Chancellor, EVC/Provost, and VCR. The committee analyst will check whether the thank you message to faculty who took the survey could be placed in the weekly Senate Digest.

VI. Consultation with VCR Wilson

- A. Financial taskforce update

A communication was sent to the campus yesterday. Efforts will continue even after the taskforce concludes their work in May by administrators and some faculty. A final report from the task force is forthcoming. For now, the taskforce will continue meeting weekly. Improvements that have been made have focused on upstream processes (e.g. minimizing errors in CoA, more accurate calculation of numbers in the reports, and proper calculation of IDC) while future improvements (e.g. format, accuracy, and regularity of the reports) are ongoing. The goal is to have all fund

managers across campus be trained to the same standard. Hiring enough staff in the schools continues to be a challenge.

B. Climate Center Director appointments

Two appointments were made and will be publicly announced.

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

Attest: Tao Ye, CoR Chair