

Committee on Research (CoR)
Minutes of Meeting
April 3, 2019

Pursuant to call, the Committee on Research met at 2:30 pm on April 3, 2019 in Room 362 of the Kolligian Library, Chair Michael Scheibner presiding.

I. Chair's Report

Chair Scheibner updated CoR members on the following:

- DivCo meeting April 1
 - Discussion on the future of the admissions process
 - Consultation with Assistant Vice Provost for Academic Personnel Becky Gubser regarding the possible re-establishment of the Professional Researcher series. AVP Gubser shared that negotiations are currently underway for individuals in this title to be unionized, therefore, any discussion of implementing this working title is on hold pending the outcome of the bargaining talks. (This discussion at Division Council was prompted by CoR's memo on the working title change for the LPSOE/LSOE series. While CoR endorsed the working title change, the committee inquired about the re-establishment of Research Professor.)
 - EVC/Provost Camfield is enumerating UC Merced's current MOUs to determine their function and whom they benefit. Current MOUs include UC Merced's agreement with LBNL and LBL, and, with Indiana University at Bloomington.
- Academic Planning Work Group (APWG) updates
 - Chair Scheibner reported no updates beyond the finalization of the APWG report which has been distributed for Senate review.

II. Budget Working Group (BWG) updates

Action: this discussion was tabled for the next meeting due to the absence of the lead discussant.

III. Consent Calendar

Action: Due to lack of quorum, items on the consent calendar were tabled for the next meeting.

IV. Consultation with VCORED

VCORED Traina updated CoR members on the following:

- VCORED Traina is awaiting a response from his contacts at UCOP regarding the composite benefit rate for post docs. In the interim, he will speak with UC Merced's Controller to ensure that the campus is in compliance with federal regulations.
- [2018 COGR Report on Institutional Resources for Promoting Research Quality](#). The report, from the Council on Governmental Relations, contains recommendations on how institutions can reduce barriers to research and increase research productivity. VCORED Traina recommended that Division Council be made aware of the report in the context of ongoing discussions of UC Merced reaching R1 status.

Action: committee analyst will distribute the COGR report to the Senate Chair with a request that it be added to a future Division Council meeting.

- The Department of Defense issued more regulations this week pertaining to foreign influence on research. Reporting requirements will be made stricter, e.g. paid, non-paid, and in-kind activities must all be reported.
- UCOP issued a communication on the reporting of triggering events. If the FBI conducts an inquiry of a faculty member and/or asks campuses for information on a faculty member, the campus must report this to UCOP. This requirement is part of the current changes surrounding the concern about foreign influence on research. Each campus has to formulate a response plan procedure. VCORED Traina will keep CoR – and the campus – informed on further developments.

V. Future of Senate Faculty Grants Program

CoR members continued their discussion on potentially converting the current grants program into an incentive-based program in the possible absence of increased funding from the EVC/Provost. CoR members suggested forwarding CoR's 2015 memo to the EVC/Provost (containing survey responses from faculty members who had won CoR grants in the few years prior to the survey) with a request for additional funding. CoR members wondered whether the CoR grants were translating into extramural grants, which would be a significant factor in the request for additional funding from the EVC/Provost.

Chair Scheibner reported on his meeting with a faculty member in Life & Environmental Sciences. This faculty member serves on the campus advisory committee on sustainability and shared with Chair Scheibner that the advisory committee is working with the EVC/Provost on establishing sustainability grants. It is as yet unknown whether these grants are only for faculty members, or if staff and students are also eligible. If only faculty are eligible, CoR members discussed whether these sustainability awards should be folded into the Senate faculty grants program.

Chair Scheibner briefly summarized other UC campus grants programs, which include awarding funds to arts faculty, to faculty with instrumentation needs, and to faculty with large teaching loads. CoR members suggested awarding funds for equipment repair given that there is currently no mechanism for refreshing or replacing equipment for shared facilities. VCORED Traina stated that the campus Budget Working Group has begun to investigate these types of recurring costs, e.g. equipment repair and IT resources in classrooms, in recognition of the fact that the campus needs to build these expenses into a larger budget planning process.

Action: this discussion will be continued at the next meeting.

VI. Campus Review Items

- Salary recovery policy.
This policy was generated by the campus Budget Working Group.

A CoR member made the following comments on the draft policy:

- The following reference “In one case, UC Santa Barbara limited buyouts to 50% of that faculty member’s course workload for the semester” should be changed to reflect the fact that UC Santa Barbara is on the quarter system. CoR suggests that line be revised to “50% of *yearly* teaching load”.
- Should protected research time be enfolded into the grants proposal process?
- Policy should clearly state that both deans and department chairs are aware of their responsibilities; this is critical for the latter, as the future campus budget planning process will allow for a significant amount of delegation of responsibility to department chairs.

Action: committee analyst to draft a memo to circulate for the committee’s review. Memo to be approved at the April 17 meeting.

- APWG report
This policy was generated by the campus APWG. Chair Scheibner, who is a member of the APWG, will recuse from commenting on the report.

CoR members questioned how to measure “Breadth in Research and Teaching Programs”.

Action: committee analyst to seek a lead reviewer. Lead reviewer’s comments will be discussed at the April 17 meeting.

VII. Systemwide Review Item

- State Assessment Report on the UC Center Sacramento
Per UC President Napolitano's direction, systemwide Provost & Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs initiated an extensive assessment of the UC Center Sacramento (UCCS) in August 2018. This report was developed based on interviews with and data collected from various stakeholders, including members of the UCCS Faculty Council and Advisory Board, as well as campus and other stakeholders. The current state assessment comprises the background, activities and programs, organizational structure, financials, and competitive landscape for UCCS. The proposal for the future of UCCS, includes a vision, set of goals, and changes necessary to meet those goals.

CoR is a lead reviewer.

Action: committee analyst to seek a lead reviewer. Lead reviewer's comments will be discussed at the April 17 meeting.

VIII. Consultation with Procurement Director

Procurement Director Josh Dubroff and his staff members provided an update to CoR on updates to campus purchasing.

Director Dubroff gave a brief demonstration of the future Bobcat Buy system which will replace CatBuy. The Bobcat Buy system, which is patterned on an Amazon-like ordering experience, will allow for, among other things, wide usage (including graduate students on fellowships); order tracking; the ability to save favorite FAUs for repeat orders; and approvals via a mobile app. Director Dubroff explained that the Bobcat Buy system is built on the Jaggaer platform which was built for higher education and is widely used across the UC system. The implementation of Bobcat Buy is a long-term solution and not an interim step.

Director Dubroff stated that 1:1 training sessions for both faculty, their students, and staff, will be available when the system goes live.

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

Attest: Michael Scheibner, CoR chair