

Committee on Research (CoR)
Minutes of Meeting
April 7, 2025

Pursuant to call, the Committee on Research met at 11:30 am on Monday, April 7, 2025, in room 344 of the Ruiz-Administration Building. Chair Tao Ye presiding.

I. Chair's Report – *Tao Ye*

A. Divisional Council meeting April 1st

- Campus Counsel consulted with Divisional Council on ongoing issues.

B. Academic Congress on Research (held at UCLA, March 11-12th)

- Discussion about various issues around the federal funding freeze and executive orders.

II. Consent Calendar

A. Today's agenda

B. Draft February 24 and March 21 meeting minutes

Action: The Consent Calendar was approved as presented.

III. Consultation with VCR

A. ORED's Assistant Vice Chancellor for the Office of Technology, Innovation & Industry Relations interviews

- VCR Wilson previously shared the dates and times of the interviews which were forwarded to CoR. CoR members and their faculty colleagues are encouraged to attend.

B. Federal funding updates

- UC Merced has received 11 notifications, which includes 6 stop work orders and 3 cancellations of anticipated awards. It was recently announced that UC Merced's NEH award for the Library was also cancelled.
- There is a 13% decrease in proposal submissions from UC Merced.
- UC Merced has 30 pending award actions.

A CoR member asked about NSF no cost extensions. It is suggested that faculty spend what grant money they have as quickly as possible. RAs should be working with PIs on this.

C. ORED investments in shared core research facilities

- UC Merced previously received climate funds, some of which the VCR allocated to faculty for proof-of-concept funding. With the remaining funds, the VCR committed to investing in shared research core facilities after

receiving feedback from lab managers. The VCR will provide CoR with a summary of the investments she has made in shared core facilities before the end of the year.

- IV. Proposal to rename the Organized Research Unit (ORU) Sierra Nevada Research Institute (SNRI)
UC Merced Institute for Climate Research (placeholder name)

CoR Chair Ye suggested that CoR formulate a list of questions for the proposal authors. The list will be shared with CAPRA for their input. CoR does not want the review to be onerous, but realistically, the review will be concluded in the fall.

VCR Wilson added that HSRI is also up for review, and she is working with the HSRI faculty director on the review materials in the fall.

Action: CoR Chair Ye will begin drafting questions for the proposal authors. The committee analyst will distribute to CoR members for review and edits before coordinating with CAPRA.

- V. Campus Review Item
A. Proposal to create a graduate program in Life & Environmental Sciences

CoR members briefly discussed the lead reviewer's preliminary comments.

Action: CoR will continue discussing the lead reviewer's comments via email and will finalize a memo at the April 21st meeting. CoR's comments are due to the Senate Chair by Monday, April 28th.

- VI. Systemwide Review Items
A. Systemwide Presidential Policy BFB-BUS-63: Risk Transfer & Insurance Requirements

CoR members discussed the lead reviewer's comments.

Action: CoR will continue discussing the lead reviewer's draft memo via email. CoR's comments are due to the Senate Chair by Friday, April 11th.

- B. Proposed New Presidential Policy on High-Containment Research

Action: The lead reviewer will submit comments by Friday, April 11th. CoR will review the comments via email and finalize a memo at the April 21st meeting. CoR's comments are due to the Senate Chair by Friday, April 25th.

VII. Senate Awards

Each spring semester, the Academic Senate gives nine awards to faculty members. CoR is responsible for reviewing nominees for the Distinguished Early Career Research award (untenured) and the Distinction in Research award (tenured).

Action: After reviewing the nominations offline, the CoR award subcommittees will select one awardee in each category. The deadline to select awardees is Monday, April 21st. Winners of all Senate awards are announced at the May 7th Meeting of the Division.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:00 pm.

Attest: Tao Ye, CoR Chair