

Committee on Research (CoR)
Minutes of Meeting
May 1, 2019

Pursuant to call, the Committee on Research met at 2:30 pm on May 1, 2019 in Room 362 of the Kolligian Library, Chair Michael Scheibner presiding.

I. Chair's Report

Chair Scheibner updated CoR members on the following:

- Division Council meeting April 29. The main items of discussion included:
 - Memorial to the Regents re: divestment in fossil fuels
 - Ongoing discussion about UCSF's need for expansion but the UC remains concerned about partnering with faith-based organizations due to their practice of refusing to perform certain procedures due to religious objections
 - The final amount of the UC faculty's pay raise will depend on the outcome of the May Revision of the state budget
 - Audits continue to occur due to the admissions scandals
 - A bill in the state legislature regarding requests under the Freedom of Information Act (each time the UC receives such a request, the UC has to pay the legal fees for both parties: the UC system and the requestor, and the bill seeks to change this)
 - Chancellor Leland continues advocating for DACA at the state and federal level
 - Campus leadership is now looking to 2030 space needs
 - Consultation with SNRI Director Roger Bales on carbon neutrality
 - Deans Council is discussing the proliferation of electronic systems faculty have to use
 - All Senate committee and ORU directors' comments on CoR's draft ORU policy will be sent to CoR for the committee's consideration (Chair Scheibner pointed out that this will be carryover business for CoR for early fall semester 2019)
 - Discussion on the salary recovery policy, specifically, why protected research time should cost more than course buyout
 - FWF's memo on the need for equity in the teaching loads of Teaching Professors

II. Budget Working Group update

CoR member Subramaniam, who is the committee's representative on the campus Budget Working Group, stated that the Budget Work Group arrived at a consensus on which financial model for summer session to put forward for campus review.

III. Consent Calendar

Action: today's agenda, and the April 17 meeting minutes were approved as presented.

IV. Campus Review Items

- Academic Planning Work Group report

Prior to this meeting, a set of comments from the lead reviewer were distributed to committee members. Committee members supported the comments.

Action: committee analyst to distribute the draft memo to committee members via email for one final review, and will transmit a final version to the Senate Chair by his deadline of 5:00 pm on Monday, May 6.

- Department Chair Duties Document

Prior to this meeting, the lead reviewer recommended that CoR decline to opine.

Action: receiving no comments by 12:00 pm on Monday, May 6, the committee analyst will inform the Senate Chair that CoR declines to comment.

V. Systemwide Review Items

- UC Center Sacramento Assessment report

Prior to this meeting, a draft memo was distributed for the committee members' review. Committee members supported the draft memo.

Action: committee analyst to distribute the draft memo to committee members via email for one final review, and will transmit a final version to the Senate Chair by his deadline of 5:00 pm on Monday, May 6.

- Proposed, new APM 011 section on academic freedom for non-faculty academic appointees

Prior to this meeting, a draft memo was distributed for the committee members' review. Committee members supported the draft memo.

Action: committee analyst to distribute the draft memo to committee members via email for one final review, and will transmit a final version to the Senate Chair by his deadline of 5:00 pm on Monday, May 6.

- Immigration Enforcement at UC Health Facilities

CoR members requested clarification on whether human subjects in research studies who are in UC health facilities would be affected by this policy. In addition, would faculty researchers conducting these studies be legally required to report personal information about the patients if requested by authorities?

Action: committee analyst to distribute a draft memo based on these comments to committee members via email. A final memo will be transmitted to the Senate Chair by 5:00 pm on Monday, May 6.

VI. Consultation with Interim Vice Chancellor Michael Riley

Interim VC Riley attended today's CoR meeting at the committee's request to update members on composite benefit rates for post docs.

Interim VC Riley announced that as of July 1, 2019, the campus will be splitting post docs from faculty in the composite benefit rate calculations. Faculty will not see this change in the general ledgers until approximately August or September because this change has to be approved by the appropriate entity in the federal government. The campus does not see any problems with receiving the approval. Interim VC Riley stated that certain other UC campuses also separate post docs from faculty in the composite benefit rate calculations, and UC Merced elected to do the same after analyzing the cost benefits to the campus.

A CoR member asked whether Visiting Assistant Professors fit into the faculty category. Interim VC Riley stated that he will confirm the answer and respond shortly.

A CoR member asked whether UC Merced's composite benefits rate is affected by the fact that the campus does not have access to a UC care health center. Interim VC Riley responded that the rate may be affected by this, but added that the Chancellor is currently with UCSF-Fresno on establishing a clinic for UC Merced faculty and staff which would alleviate some issues regarding access to quality care. (The Chancellor made this announcement at the April 15, 2019 Meeting of the Division.)

Another CoR member inquired whether there will be back pay for post docs for AY 18-19. Interim VC Riley stated that there will not be back pay, but whenever the rate actually changes (August or September), it will be made retroactive to July 1.

VII. Future of Senate Faculty Grants Program

Chair Scheibner reported that he is working on a proposal for seeking funds from different sources other than the EVC/Provost, including cost-matching arrangements with collaborators in industry.

VIII. Other Business

Chair Scheibner stated that he is unable to participate in the June 10 UCORP meeting and asked for a CoR member to participate in his place if possible.

Action: committee analyst will send a reminder to CoR members

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

Attest: Michael Scheibner, CoR chair