

Committee on Research (CoR)
Minutes of Meeting
May 15, 2019

Pursuant to call, the Committee on Research met at 2:30 pm on May 15, 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 May 13. The main items of discussion included:
 - The proposed 5% increase to faculty salary scales is not yet confirmed.
 - Division Council endorsed the proposed Economics B.S. degree proposal.
 - Senate committees' comments on the department chairs duties document and the Academic Planning Work Group report.
 - Senate committees' comments on the previously-reviewed space planning documents. The general agreement was that an administrative office should not have such authority in the faculty hiring process and should not communicate with short-listed faculty candidates as the documents propose. In addition, Council members agreed that with regard to space allocation, departments should not be responsible for identifying funds as budget authority has not yet devolved to department chairs.
 - Continued discussion on the UC Center Sacramento assessment.
 - Division Council endorsed the proposed, new APM section 011 regarding academic freedom for non-faculty academic appointees.
 - SNRI director Professor Roger Bales returned to Division Council to continue the discussion on carbon neutrality. He is seeking buy-in from the UC community on trying to reach carbon neutrality goals. One suggestion is to form a joint Senate-Administration committee to explore this further.
 - Unit 18 lecturer (non-Senate faculty) potential participation on Senate committees. The Senate Chair suggested that individual committees should decide whether to invite unit 18 lecturers to meetings as guests, as appropriate.
 - Two faculty members in the Computer Sciences & Engineering department attended to highlight the serious issues caused by high enrollment in their major.
 - EVC/Provost Camfield stated that the name of the individual who will serve as Interim Chancellor will be announced after this week's Regent's meeting. The EVC/Provost also shared that he has been researching why UC Merced receives less money from UCOP than other UC campuses. He pointed out that other campuses receive more work-study funds, and, UC Merced

should be receiving funds for our two natural reserve systems, but we are not.

- UCORP meeting May 13. Chair Scheibner joined the meeting late, as the meeting overlapped with the Division Council meeting. The major items of discussion were:
 - Composite Benefit Rate issue will be taken to UC President Napolitano for consideration.
 - Self-supporting programs will continued to be discussed in the next academic year. Some faculty pointed out that the space and faculty time used by these programs are not calculated and that these programs are not paying the full cost of instruction.
 - The knowledge transfer advisory committee will be exploring various aspects of technology transfer and how the relevant office at UCOP can be expanded to more efficiently educate elected officials. The committee wants UC's tech development to be marketed in order to provide a compelling story of the system's achievements.
 - Material transfer agreement from the tobacco industry for research.
 - All campuses, including UC Merced, are currently reviewing the UC Research Grants Program Office assessment report. UCORP members drew attention to the financial component of the report as well as the low staffing levels.

II. Consent Calendar

Action: Today's agenda and the May 1 meeting minutes were approved as presented.

III. Consultation with VCORED Traina

VCORED Traina announced the following:

- In the next few days, the White House will announce that the UC is banned from engaging with Huawei.
- A bill was introduced by the Senate that proposes that Individuals associated with the Chinese military will be banned from obtaining visas to do research in the U.S. Many Chinese universities have ties to their country's military, as such, this potential ban, if enacted, will significantly impact graduate students in China.
- VCORED Traina suggested that CoR discuss, in the next academic year, a policy on the establishment of natural reserve sites, as UC Merced may create another one. Natural reserve sites are research facilities; as such, there should be Senate involvement in their establishment. Alternatively, the establishment of natural reserve sites could fall under the ORU policy that CoR drafted this year (and will be revised in the next academic year, as Senate committees had several comments).
- UC Merced is one of 8 campuses who joined the National Academy of Sciences' effort to address sexual harassment and sexual violence in research universities.

IV. Campus Review Item

- UC Research Grants Program Office assessment report. CoR is a lead reviewer. Chair Scheibner suggested dividing the report into sections and assigning each CoR member a section to review.

Action: committee analyst will assign sections of the report to CoR members via email after this meeting. CoR's comments are due to the Senate Chair by 5:00 pm on Friday, June 21.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:40 pm.

Attest: Michael Scheibner, CoR chair