

Committee on Research (CoR)
Minutes of Meeting
May 15, 2024

Pursuant to call, the Committee on Research met at 1:00 pm on May 15, 2024, via Zoom. Chair Tao Ye presiding.

I. Consultation with VCR Wilson

CoR Chair Ye stated that CoR's memo on core facilities that was submitted to the Chancellor, EVC/Provost Dumont, and VCR Wilson identified several areas for improvement. He asked VCR Wilson for short and long term solutions to address the need for instrumentation. VCR Wilson stated that a response is forthcoming from the Chancellor, EVC/Provost, and herself. CoR Chair Ye encouraged VCR Wilson to email him over the summer with her feedback and ideas. Another CoR member stated that some campuses like UC Davis do not process samples themselves, rather, they send them off for sequencing and the data is processed by their core facilities. He inquired whether this model would work at UC Merced.

II. Consent Calendar

- A. Today's agenda
- B. Draft May 1 meeting minutes

Action: The Consent Calendar was approved as presented.

III. Consultation with VC/CIO Nick Dugan

VC/CIO Dugan attended today's meeting at CoR Chair Ye's invitation to discuss cybersecurity updates from systemwide.

VC/CIO Dugan shared a letter submitted by UC President Drake to campus Chancellors dated February 26, 2024. In the letter, President Drake requested the submission of an updated information security investment plan from each campus. The plan should outline each campus's strategy for achieving following key outcomes by May 28, 2025 in standards compliance and controls compliance.

One of the requirements is to deploy and manage UC-approved Endpoint Detection and Recovery software on university computers. VC/CIO Dugan stated that some faculty had concerns about running this software on the servers on which they do experiments and measurements. He explained that the campus has a process by which it can make

exceptions on a case-by-case basis as long as the spirit of the policy is being met. These exceptions will be documented and renewed as necessary.

IV. Proposed Establishment of a Center for Africana Studies

The proposal was on the May 1 CoR agenda and was sent to CoR via email. The proposal, the Senate policy for the establishment and review of Centers, and the lead reviewer's comments were hyperlinked on today's agenda.

CoR members made a few revisions to the draft memo.

Action: The committee analyst will distribute the revised memo to committee members to review and approve via email. The final memo will be transmitted to the Senate Chair on Friday, May 17.

V. Consultation with EVC/Provost Dumont

The following topics were submitted to EVC/Provost Dumont on May 9, 2024 and the EVC/Provost addressed them in today's meeting.

- Based on the published metrics by the Carnegie Foundation, UC Merced will likely reach R1 status in a few years. How do the potential benefits of reaching R1 status weigh against the costs, such as losing access to many funding opportunities that are earmarked for non-R1 institutions and more scrutiny of financial management and reporting from federal funding agencies? How can UC Merced proactively mitigate such impacts and maximize the benefits?
 - EVC/Provost Dumont explained that moving to R1 is a natural progression based on the good work the campus is doing. There are funding sources that are available to R2s and not R1s, and funding sources available to R1s that are not available to R2s. EVC/Provost Dumont asked faculty to think of it as gaining access to R1 funding sources. She emphasized that UC Merced will not lose its MSI and HSI status when reaching R1. With regard to mitigating impacts, EVC/Provost Dumont suggested the campus pursue special areas in R1. For example, VCR Wilson offers training on R1 grant submissions. EVC/Provost Dumont also wants to explore opportunities for social sciences and humanities faculty. A CoR member stated that the campus has to enhance its research infrastructure like our core facilities in order to sustain R1 status. EVC/Provost Dumont agreed and added that the campus business process pieces should also be enhanced.

She also wants to obtain data on how much funding the campus is bringing in that is predicted on R2 or R1.

- With regard to CoR's memo of recommendations on core facilities, how to develop a budget model that makes the operation of facilities more sustainable?
 - EVC/Provost Dumont is meeting with the Chancellor and VCR later this month to discuss CoR's core facilities memo to start to unravel the various issues. She would then like to consult with CoR again.
- What are the potential short-term and long-term goals and solutions for graduate student funding?
 - A CoR member asked if the campus could temporarily increase indirect cost (IDC) on grants to meet the challenges of graduate student funding? EVC/Provost Dumont replied that she will consult with VCR Wilson on that question. She stated that the campus needs to analyze two things separately: what the campus needs for graduate student support and what the campus needs to deliver the undergraduate curriculum.
- The importance of department level staffing.
 - EVC/Provost Dumont is encouraging the deans and department chairs across the schools to work together on this issue.
- With regard to medical education, how does research benefit from UC Merced's partnership with UCSF?
 - A CoR members asked if the medical education program and UCSF communicate more with the School of Engineering on research. EVC/Provost Dumont asked for input on how to create these opportunities.

VI. Chair's Report – *Chair Ye*

- A. May 13 Divisional Council meeting
 - Discussion about encampments on campus and the administration's planning for the future.
- B. May 13 UCORP meeting
 - updates on labor negotiations.

- Congress on Research is postponed until February 2025. In addition to discussing the lack of institutional support for research and core facilities, the campuses would also like to use the Congress to promote collaborative research.
- UCORP continues to hold discussions on Oracle. A few campuses are experiencing similar problems to UC Merced, such as difficulties with paying graduate student and vendors. Faculty on some campuses have had to return grant money. UCFW wants to collaborate with UCORP on a memo.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:25 pm.

Attest: Tao Ye, CoR Chair