

Committee on Research (CoR)
Minutes of Meeting
September 10, 2019

Pursuant to call, the Committee on Research met at 1:30 pm on September 10, 2019 in Room 232 of the Kolligian Library, Chair Michael Scheibner presiding.

I. Chair's Report

- A. Chair Scheibner introduced and welcomed new and returning committee members. He summarized CoR member responsibilities, especially with regard to assignment of campus and systemwide review items. He then summarized the CoR conflict of interest policy which the committee drafted and approved last academic year. Hearing no objections to the conflict of interest policy, Chair Scheibner asked for a motion to approve the policy for this academic year. The motion was made and seconded.

Action: CoR members approved the conflict of interest policy with no revisions.

B. Governance Retreat (Senate & Administration) August 25-26

Chair Scheibner reported that retreat participants discussed matters related to shared governance as well as priorities for the academic year. Two of the priorities Chair Scheibner raised on behalf of CoR were: VCORED's restructuring of Sponsored Research Services and CoR discussion on modifying the Senate faculty grants program.

C. Divisional Council meeting September 4

The major items of discussion at the Division Council meeting included:

- i. Enrollment shortfall and impact on the budget. Faculty hiring plans will not be affected.
- ii. Certain organizations are challenging freedom of speech and academic freedom at universities.
- iii. Proliferation of online programs across campus that cost faculty time and resources to maneuver.
- iv. The medical clinic that the former Chancellor mentioned at the spring Meeting of the Division in April 2019 may be established by November.
- v. The Chancellor's Advisory Search Committee is meeting with the Senate on September 24.

- D. Campus and systemwide review items. Division Council will institute a new targeted method of distributing review items to Senate committee chairs whereby review items will be forwarded only to chairs of committees that are deemed relevant according to the subject of the review item. However, all committee chairs and School Executive Committee chairs will receive a weekly digest via email from the Senate Director of all review items in case chairs who were not on the original distribution list wish to have their committees opine.

COR members agreed to allow Chair Scheibner to decide on their behalf which review items the committee should discuss. The committee analyst will list all review items, regardless of relevance to CoR, under Informational Items on all agendas, in the event that a CoR member wishes to discuss an item that is not listed on the agenda for committee discussion.

- E. Updates from Vice Chancellor for Research & Economic Development (VCORED) Sam Traina. Due to scheduling conflicts, VCORED Traina – an ex-officio, non-voting member of CoR – is unable to attend meetings this semester. Chair Scheibner will hold bi-monthly individual consultations with the VCORED and update CoR members accordingly. Chair Scheibner reported that one issue that the VCORED will update him on throughout the academic year is the continuing scrutiny by the federal government on faculty international interactions and the negative impact on faculty research and on the competitiveness of the US. Many academic, professional organizations are communicating with funding agencies on this issue.

II. CoR priorities for AY 19-20

- A. Revise the ORU policy in response to campus comments received in AY 18-19
- B. Continue to assist with the restructuring of the grants support infrastructure
- C. Research productivity enhancement, especially in light of the set goal to reach R1-status:
 - i. Expansion of the faculty grants program
 - ii. Research infrastructure: management, maintenance and development
 - iii. Competitiveness. Do processes we engage in foster a creative/innovative, collaborative/all-engaging/inspiring and effective research environment?
 - iv. Time for research
 - v. Leveraging resources and uniqueness of UC Merced
- D. Continue to provide input on space management/utilization

CoR Chair Scheibner stated that he would like CoR to consult with CAPRA, Associate Provost for Academic Planning & Budget Kurt Schnier, Interim Vice Chancellor & Chief Financial and Administration Officer Mike Riley, and VCORED Traina throughout the year in pursuit of these priorities.

III. Consent Calendar

- A. Today's agenda
- B. May 15, 2019 draft meeting minutes

Action: Consent Calendar was approved as presented.

IV. CoR Representation on Campus Committees

- A. Periodic Review Oversight Committee (PROC). A representative from COR is needed.
- B. Library & Scholarly Communications Committee (LASC). A representative from COR is needed.
- C. Sponsored Projects Services Redesign initiative VCORED Traina has empaneled an advisory board to assess and provide input on the implementation of the redesign plan.
 - i. CoR Chair Scheibner will serve on the advisory board.
 - ii. CoR member LeVeck will serve as a Subject Matter Expert to work with the Sponsored Research Services Redesign Initiative Team.

Action: Committee analyst will follow up with the committee via email to seek volunteers for LASC and PROC.

V. Requests for Senate Representation

The Non-Senate Academic Council and the Librarians Association of UC Merced have each submitted a request to the Senate regarding participation on Senate committees.

Action: CoR members agreed that individuals from each organization will be invited to CoR meetings as guests, depending on the particular discussion topic.

VI. ORU Policy Revisions

In AY 18-19, CoR drafted a new policy for the establishment and review of ORUs. Divisional Council issued the policy for review by Senate committees, School Executive committees, ORU directors, and the Deans' Council. Comments were received in spring 2019. CoR is asked to review the comments and revise the policy accordingly.

Action: A subcommittee of three CoR members (Chair Scheibner, Anand Subramaniam, and Susan Ge) was formed to take the lead in revising the ORU policy in response to comments received. A revised policy should be submitted to Division Council no later than mid-February for review and consideration by Senate committees, ORU directors, and School Executive Committee chairs before the end of the spring semester.

VII. Campus Review Items

A. Chemistry Major Name Change

The faculty of the Chemistry and Chemical Biology department are proposing to change the name of the Chemical Sciences major and minor to: Chemistry.

Action: CoR members endorsed the proposed name change. A memo will be submitted to the Senate Chair at the conclusion of this meeting.

B. Proposal for M.S. Degree in Cognitive & Information Sciences

Action: Committee analyst will follow up with CoR members via email to solicit a volunteer to serve as lead reviewer of this proposal. The lead reviewer's comments will be discussed at the September 24 CoR meeting.

C. Proposed Revisions to Merced Division Bylaws – LASC Membership

LASC has proposed changes to its membership model. Currently, LASC membership is comprised of a chair plus volunteers from CAPRA, CoR, UGC, and GC. LASC is requesting an at-large model similar to those of other Senate committees in which the Committee on Committees appoints the members.

Action: CoR members endorsed the proposed bylaw revisions with LASC's proposed, new membership model. A memo will be submitted to the Senate Chair at the conclusion of this meeting.

VIII. Systemwide Review Item

- A. Proposed revisions to APM 230 – Visiting Professional Researchers and Visiting Project Scientists
The proposed revisions reflect changes made to comply with a stipulated agreement between the University of California and the International Union, United Automobile, Aerospace and Agricultural Implement Workers of America (UAW) in recognition of the Researchers-Academic Unit formation. On March 22, 2019, the UC and the UAW entered into an agreement to recognize the Academic Researchers United/UAW as the exclusive representative of a unit of employees as defined in the Stipulation. Pursuant to the stipulation, who qualifies as a Visitor in terms of the in-unit titles in the RA Unit has changed.

Action: A lead reviewer was identified. The lead reviewer's comments will be discussed at the September 24 CoR meeting.

- B. Revised Presidential Policy on Native American Cultural Affiliation and Repatriation
On August 24, 2018, President Napolitano requested the convening of a workgroup to substantively revise the existing Policy and Procedures on Curation and Repatriation of Human Remains and Cultural Items. The policy pertains to the treatment and repatriation of Native American and Native Hawaiian human remains and cultural items under the University's stewardship and the University's compliance with the federal Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act.

Action: Committee analyst will follow up with CoR members via email to solicit a volunteer to serve as lead reviewer of this proposal. The lead reviewer's comments will be discussed at the September 24 CoR meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:00 pm.

Attest: Michael Scheibner, CoR chair