

Committee on Research (COR)
Minutes of Meeting
September 17, 2014

Pursuant to call, the Committee on Research met at 3:00 pm on September 17, 2014 in Room 324 of the Kolligian Library, Chair David Noelle presiding.

I. Chair's Report

Chair Noelle provided the following updates from the September 3 Division Council meeting:

--Division Council agreed that the following issues will be priorities this academic year: strategic academic focusing, faculty FTE allocation process, and space planning (including the lack of space for graduate students and the absence of adequate Senate faculty representation on current campus space committees).

--Division Council discussed the issues surrounding self-supporting graduate programs which Senate standing committees, including COR, opined on during the last academic year. COR's concern with these programs is the negative impact on faculty's multiple research foci.

--Graduate course request forms are now online.

--SACAP has been dissolved and replaced with the Periodic Review Oversight Committee (PROC) that will facilitate program review.

--Parking. Division Council will invite VC for Business and Administrative Services Michael Reese to a future meeting to discuss the parking situation's impact on faculty.

--Renewed interest in Senate standing committees drafting conflict of interest policies.

--Systemwide is currently reviewing policies on diversity and discrimination which may be sent to the campuses for review. Systemwide is also interested in evaluating the quality of UC faculty in comparison to other institutions.

Chair Noelle mentioned that the Center for Human Adaptive Systems and Environments will likely submit a proposal to establish itself as an ORU this academic year. If the proposal gets submitted, COR will review it according to the newly-approved Senate policies on the establishment and review of research units.

Chair Noelle announced, as a continuation of the discussion from the last COR meeting, that he has contacted the Institutional Review Board (IRB) staff about that unit's review and COR's input in the process. The director of Research Compliance has agreed to work with COR to submit a satisfaction survey to faculty. The office of Research Compliance is scheduled for a periodic review next year and COR is interested in providing input. VCR Traina mentioned previous surveys of the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) that COR could review in advance.

ACTION: VCR Traina will circulate previous IACUC surveys to COR members and will work with the Research Compliance director on drafting questions for COR's potential survey of faculty regarding IRB.

II. Consent Calendar

ACTION: The minutes from the September 3 COR meeting were approved as presented.

III. SNRI Five-Year Review

Prior to this meeting, COR members re-reviewed the five-year review criteria contained in the research units policies. Five-year reviews are to be launched by the Chancellor (likely the VCR as designee) with the Senate providing input on the selection of external review members. COR briefly discussed the timeline SNRI would have to follow for the review.

ACTION: VCR Traina will submit a review notification letter to SNRI leadership and will copy COR members. The appropriate program review committee will also be included in the correspondence.

IV. Campus Review Items

--Senate-Administration Advisory Council draft charge. COR members were in favor of the draft charge but suggested that the faculty membership be expanded

by one slot and include representatives from four Senate committees. The administration membership could then be expanded for balance.

ACTION: COR to draft memo to the Senate Chair stating that the faculty membership in the draft charge should be expanded to include one representative each from UGC, GC, CAPRA, and COR. To maintain balance, the administration membership should be expanded by one slot.

--SSHA's request to suspend the use of the appraisal form.

ACTION: COR will inform the Senate Chair that the committee has no comments on this issue.

--Economics PhD proposal.

Prior to this meeting, COR reviewed the draft review prepared by a committee member. COR held a lengthy discussion and narrowed down the proposal's issues to the following: space planning, appropriate library resources, the feasibility of maintaining the program with the current number of faculty, affiliate faculty's contribution to the curriculum, the need for collaboration with Health Psychology, the workload expectations of students conducting research in their second year, the need to demonstrate demand in the program's focal areas as well as the need to prove its funding potential, and whether the proposal needs to include the Bylaw 55 unit narrative.

ACTION: COR lead reviewer will circulate a revised review among the committee for further discussion. At its October 1 meeting, COR will vote on whether to recommend the proposal move forward in the approval process and will finalize its memo making recommendations concerning the proposal document.

V. Faculty Research Grants

COR members held a lengthy discussion on the future of the grants program. COR must decide the program's goals and that will dictate how to request additional resources for the program (COR sent two requests to the Provost

during the last academic year for additional funds as the funds allocated for this program have not been commensurate with the growth in faculty numbers).

COR members inquired whether these grants have been helpful in increasing faculty's success in obtaining larger grants. If faculty report back – using certain indicators of success such as papers generated or more grants obtained – that these internal grants are helpful, that could provide further justification for the need for additional funding.

COR members agreed that next steps should be: determine the “blue sky” goals for this grants program, survey previous faculty awardees on whether these grants helped them obtain larger grants or publish papers, illustrate in a graph the rate of faculty growth in relation to funding for the program, and, finally, provide all these findings to Division Council and the Provost as justification that additional funding is needed for the grants program.

ACTION: COR to gather the list of previous award winners of the past five years and their grant proposals, determine what the budget has been for the grants program for the past five years, and determine how to survey the faculty on their successes after obtaining these grants. At the October 1 COR meeting, committee members will discuss the grants program's long-term goals.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:30 pm.

Attest: David Noelle, COR Chair

Minutes prepared by: Simrin Takhar, Senate Analyst