

**Committee on Research (CoR)**  
**Minutes of Meeting**  
**September 18, 2024**

Pursuant to call, the Committee on Research met at 1:30 pm on September 18, 2024, in room 344 of the Ruiz-Administration Building. Chair Tao Ye presiding.

I. Welcome and Introductions

Chair Ye welcomed new and returning members to CoR.

II. Chair's Report – *Chair Ye*

A. September 9 Divisional Council meeting

- The annual Senate/Administration shared governance retreat will be held on October 30. Chair Ye will attend on behalf of CoR.
- Divisional Council consulted with EVC/Provost Dumont on the TAS budget and enrollment. A group comprised of the school and curriculum deans will work with department chairs to develop principles around the TAS budget and will consult with the Senate.
- The Committee on Faculty Welfare & Academic Freedom is proposing to split into two committees so that academic freedom issues can be given full consideration. This proposal will be issued for a Senate review in the future.
- Divisional Council discussed their goals and priorities for AY 24-25, one of which is continued engagement with financial management.

III. CoR Processes – *Chair Ye*

A. Process for campus and systemwide review items and new program proposals

- i. Chair Ye explained that each review item and proposal will have a lead reviewer from among the CoR membership. The reviewer will be responsible for presenting their comments in CoR meetings or via email for the committee's discussion.
- ii. CoR bylaws. Chair Ye shared with members the Senate bylaws that outline CoR's responsibilities. The bylaw is available on the Senate [website](#).
- iii. CoR's Conflict of Interest Policy  
Chair Ye reviewed the policy with members and encouraged them to ask him or the committee staff member any questions.

IV. Consent Calendar

- A. Today's agenda
- B. Draft May 15, 2024 meeting minutes

**Action:** The Consent Calendar was approved with a minor edit to the draft May 15, 2024 minutes to fix a typo.

V. CoR Representation on Campus Committees

A. Periodic Review Oversight Committee (PROC)

**Action:** Member Andrea Joyce will serve on PROC and Member Saha will be the backup.

VI. Consultation with ORED

*Guest: John Jackson, AVC of Research Administration, Core Facilities, Technology Transfer & Innovation (Alternate for VCR Wilson)*

A. Updates on shared core research facilities

AVC Jackson attended today's meeting as VCR Wilson's alternate. He explained his role to CoR, mainly his oversight of core facilities and his close collaborations with core facilities managers. Feedback on these collaborations is subsequently shared with VCR Wilson. Several issues with core facilities that CoR discussed in their memo to the administration in AY 23-24 were already being addressed by ORED. AVC Jackson thanked CoR for their attention to these issues.

ORED has been actively filling vacant positions, for example, Emily Slocum has been hired back by the campus to serve as Director of the Department of Animal Services (DARS). In addition, ORED is conducting interviews for the position of Principal Manager, Research Core Facilities. (With assistance from Berkeley Executive Search firm, ORED was able to broaden the pool of applicants from both higher education and industry.) The first round of interviews for the Principal Manager position will be completed in about two weeks. One to three candidates will be invited to campus for in-person interviews. CoR members will be asked to participate in these interviews together with other faculty, EH&S, and members of the administration. The goal is to fill the position by the first week of November.

A CoR member asked about faculty involvement in the Principal Manager search. AVC Jackson confirmed that there are four faculty members on the search committee who were actively involved in sourcing and selecting candidates. The CoR member then inquired about plans to help get the new Principal Manager settled into their new role. AVC Jackson replied that every core facility has an advisory board comprised of faculty members. The plan is to engage with those advisory board members, together with the lab managers, to acclimate the new Principal Manager to UC Merced.

AVC Jackson explained the different models that exist on campus for core facilities management and oversight. Biostatistics and Data Support is under the purview of

HSRI; this arrangement is allowed by the campus owing to HSRI's autonomy as an organized research unit (ORU). The faculty director reports to the VCR. DARS and High Containment Facilities are overseen by Director Emily Slocum who reports to Danielle Dai'Re Benziger and Leslie Teixeira-Porto. The remaining core facilities will report to the future Principal Manager. The Principal Manager will be asked to develop a strategic plan for managing core facilities in collaboration with AVC Jackson.

AVC Jackson also stated that ORED is engaging in more consultation with faculty on instrumentation grants. Staff members Parveen Kumar and David Gravano of the Stem Cell Instrumentation Foundry both successfully acquired instrumentation grants.

AVC Jackson ended his consultation by informing CoR members that ORED has onboarded the new director of the Environmental Analytical Laboratory upon the retirement of the former director.

VII. Campus Review Item – *Chair Ye*

A. Anthropology & Heritage Studies Graduate Program Proposal

The Graduate Council has conducted its preliminary review of the proposal and expressed its support for the program proposal to be formally presented for the Senate review.

The proposal and supporting documents were hyperlinked on today's agenda and previously emailed to CoR on September 6.

CoR selected a lead reviewer.

**Action:** The lead reviewer will send their comments to the committee staff member who will share them with the committee for an email discussion in advance of the October 2 committee meeting. CoR will finalize the memo at the October 2 meeting. The committee staff member will then transmit the final memo to the Senate Chair by 5:00 pm on October 2.

VIII. AY 24-25 CoR goals

A CoR member asked if the campus could encourage more private funding and suggested that the appropriate member of the administration be invited to a CoR meeting to discuss this.

Another CoR member pointed out that faculty often receive email notifications about funding opportunities too close to the funding deadline. This may be the fault of the funder,

however. But the deadlines are too soon for faculty to get together with collaborators and develop and submit a proposal. He suggested it would be helpful if the campus could have individuals to identify these calls for proposals and contact faculty researchers right away. He added that members of the Office of Technology, Innovation, and Industry Relations (TIIR) spoke with faculty about the software that the campus leverages to identify potential industry partners for UC Merced technologies/discoveries called InPart. The CoR member inquired if a similar tool could be used to match researchers with new grant funding opportunities. AVC Jackson stated that this is the function of the Office of Research Development. CoR Chair Ye informed CoR members of the Pivot database where faculty can enter their research interests and then be notified of relevant calls for proposals. AVC Jackson pointed out that Pivot is established through the Library, and shared with ORED.

A CoR member suggested inviting the EVC/Provost to a future committee meeting as well as the VC & CFO in addition to a member from External Relations as mentioned above.

**Action:** The committee staff member will invite those individuals to future CoR meetings.

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

Attest: Tao Ye, CoR Chair