

Committee on Research (CoR)
Minutes of Meeting
September 26, 2018

Pursuant to call, the Committee on Research met at 2:00 pm on September 26, 2018 in Room 397 of the Kolligian Library, Chair Michael Scheibner presiding.

I. Chair's Report

Chair Scheibner updated CoR members on the following:

- September 25 Division Council meeting was cancelled
- The distribution of the campus space plan has been delayed. Director of Space Planning & Analysis Maggie Saunders may therefore attend the November 7 CoR meeting instead of the October 10 meeting.

II. Consent Calendar

Action: today's agenda and the September 12 draft meeting minutes were approved as presented.

III. ORU policy

One of the committee's goals is to revise the 2014 Senate research units policy to expand the procedures on the establishment and review of ORUs. ORU policies from other UC campuses, as well as the systemwide policy and VCORED Traina's own 2015 procedures on the review of ORUs were all made available to CoR members prior to this meeting.

In anticipation of proposals to establish new ORUs at UC Merced, CoR Chair Scheibner suggested that the committee should strive to complete a revised ORU policy for Division Council's review before the end of the fall semester. He asked for two committee members to take the lead on a first draft of revisions.

Action: two lead reviewers were identified and they will report on their progress in future CoR meetings.

IV. Call for Proposals for Annual Senate Faculty Grants

In AY 17-18, due to the new deadlines from UC Path and the heavy workload on faculty in spring semester, CoR attempted to begin the Senate faculty grants process slightly earlier in the year. Chair Scheibner suggested that CoR implement an earlier timeline this year,

e.g. issue the Call for Proposals in December 2018 with a deadline for submissions by the end of January 2019, and select awardees by early to mid March.

CoR members then discussed whether last year's Call for Proposals – including the criteria for evaluation – should be revised. Some members advocated for utilizing the same criteria as last year, while another member suggested a revision. Chair Scheibner asked for two volunteers to review last year's Call and suggest revisions.

Action: two lead reviewers were identified and they will report on their progress in future CoR meetings.

V. Campus Review Item

- Proposed revisions to Merced Division bylaws pertaining to LASC membership.

The proposed revisions increase the faculty membership of the committee to seven from four, through the addition of three at-large members, no more than one from each school. Currently, the LASC faculty membership is comprised exclusively of one representative each from CAPRA, COR, UGC, and GC.

CoR members voiced support of the addition of at-large members of LASC who would contribute their perspectives and expertise on library matters. As the committee under whose purview library matters existed prior to the empanelling of LASC as a separate standing Senate committee, CoR members see the benefits of a broader LASC membership. However, CoR members suggested the proposed bylaw language be revised to state "...as well as at-large members with no more than one representative from each School." Committee members' rationale for suggesting the removal of the specification of three at-large members is to make the revised bylaw consistent, given that it currently suggests "at least seven members" in the first sentence but later specifies exactly seven later in the bylaw. Also, while the campus currently has just three Schools, more Schools will be created in the future, so the number of at-large members from each School will eventually be greater than three.

Action: a draft memo will be circulated for CoR members' review and approval. A final memo will be transmitted to the Senate Chair by 5:00 pm on Tuesday, October 16.

VI. Systemwide Review Item

- Consolidation of UC-Mexico Entities

UCOP is proposing to combine the following three separate entities into a single structure directed by one leader: UC MEXUS (an MRU), UC-Mexico Initiative (a Presidential Initiative started by UC President Napolitano in 2014), and Casa de California (colonial building and complex in Mexico City purchased by the UC Regents and serves as the Mexico Study Center for the UC Education Abroad Program).

CoR members endorsed the consolidation, but hoped that the budget of Casa de California is maintained separately from the other two entities so as not to adversely affect the other two entities' budgets.

Action: a draft memo will be circulated for CoR members' review and approval. A final memo will be transmitted to the Senate Chair by 5:00 pm on Friday, September 28.

VII. Consultation with VCORED Sam Traina

VCORED Traina raised two issues:

- Limited submission proposals process

VCORED Traina stated that the campus's limited submissions process (under the purview of the Office of Research) should be reviewed on a regular basis. CoR reviewed the procedures last year at the request of the Office of Research and suggested modifications. However, given that this academic year is the first in which the campus will have formal departments – and department chairs – the VCORED requested that CoR again review the procedures from a structural point of view.

VCORED Traina stated that currently, the limited submissions process is handled at the school level, with the schools having the authority to decide which faculty proposals get selected for submission. With the formation of departments, should this responsibility be given to department chairs? Or, should the process remain at the school level and perhaps the school executive committees could review the pre-proposals and make the decision on submission? Another item to consider is the goal of these limited submissions: is the goal to maximize our campus's chances for successful proposals, or is our goal to enhance opportunities for untenured faculty? Additional issues to consider is the

feasibility of cost-sharing by the campus, a potential need to align the submissions with the strategic vision of the campus, and space challenges.

Action: Office of Research staff will send CoR the current limited submission procedures for the committee's review. This will be added to a future CoR agenda.

- VCORED memo on restriction of Chinese entities

Prior to this meeting, VCORED Traina issued a memo to all faculty (memo was also included on today's agenda) about the John S. McCain National Defense Authorization Act which was signed for Fiscal Year 2019 and government agencies are promulgating regulations and policies defining the specific requirements regarding a number of restricted Chinese entities. Following campus consultation and preliminary guidance from federal agencies regarding the regulations for restricted Chinese entities, for a six-month period 9/18/18 - 3/18/19, UC Merced will not accept or enter into any engagement, agreement, gift, or funds from entities listed in the memo.

VCORED Traina stated that the UC system is concerned that these measures may eventually lead to a restriction of all research collaboration between the UC and Chinese entities, including limiting Chinese student visas to the U.S. to just one year. These restrictions may adversely affect the research capacity of the U.S. There is also the concern that such restrictions will be extended to other countries besides China. VCORED Traina will keep CoR members informed of further developments.

VIII. Other Business

Chair Scheibner reminded committee members that CoR still needs representation on PROC and the campus Academic Planning Work Group.

Action: the Senate Chair will be informed that CoR Chair Scheibner will represent CoR in the academic planning effort until such time as a permanent CoR representative is identified.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 3:15 pm.

Attest: Michael Scheibner, CoR Chair