

ACADEMIC COUNCIL SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON LAB ISSUES ANNUAL REPORT 2018-19

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE ACADEMIC COUNCIL:

The Academic Council Special Committee on Lab Issues (ACSCOLI) was established by the Academic Council to provide broad-based Senate oversight of UC's relationship with the National Laboratories – Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL), Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (LLNL), and Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory (LBNL, also called the Berkeley Lab). ACSCOLI advises the President and Regents on general policies relating to the National Laboratories, which includes the dispersal of UC's share of net fee monies, policies that affect the lab science management, and the quality of science being performed at the labs. ACSCOLI is also concerned with evaluating the benefits of UC's continued participation in the management of the labs and has been charged by the Academic Council with stimulating closer connections between the lab staff, faculty, and students.

UC is the prime contractor for the management and operation of Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory (LBNL). The University is also a partner in the Lawrence Livermore National Security, LLC, (LLNS) that manages Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (LLNL) and in Triad National Security, LLC, which is the new partnership that manages Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL). LLNS and LANS are overseen by the National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA), an agency within the U.S. Department of Energy.

ACSCOLI met three times during 2018-2019 academic year (AY). A summary of the committee's discussions is below.

UC Office of the National Laboratories Updates

At each meeting, ACSCOLI received updates on the status of the three national laboratories from the Vice President of the National Laboratories. In October, Vice President Kim Budil informed the committee that Craig Leasure had joined the Office of the National Labs as Associate Vice President. Later in the year, VP Budil announced that she was leaving UC to return to Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory and that AVP Leasure would serve as Acting VP. Leasure spent 29 years at Los Alamos National Lab, primarily in the nuclear weapons program and afterwards in operations and business. He told ACSCOLI that he is interested in following VP Budil's lead in working with campuses and continuing to build relationships.

National Laboratories Updates

Los Alamos

On November 1, Triad National Security, LLC, took over the management and operations contract for Los Alamos National Laboratory. As a result of the new management structure, a new advisory board will have oversight of Los Alamos, with members that are distinct from the LLNL Board. Although a member of the UC Board of Regents has chaired the combined board for LANL and LLNL, the Regents are expected to vote to allow a non-Regent (but someone with domain knowledge who is appointed by the Regents) to Chair the Triad Board of Directors.

Lawrence Livermore

ACSCOLI was updated on the effort to revitalize the Hertz Hall complex at Lawrence Livermore National Lab and create a small conference center with room for researchers and K-12 engagement. UC staff visited the campuses to solicit input on the Hertz Hall space and heard that the southern campuses were interested in having their own local Southern California “hub” for laboratory-related work, similar to the plan for Hertz Hall. The Office of the National Labs is working with the UC Irvine administration to find a suitable space and propose a mission for such a potential hub.

ACSCOLI members learned that a joint Livermore/UC data science workshop filled 220 spots within a week.

Berkeley Lab

Construction is progressing at the Lawrence Berkeley National Lab, which continues to receive very good grades from the Office of Science. The Lab received more federal funding than expected. The Lab’s “Cyclotron Road” is seen as a successful start-up incubator and the Department of Energy is now interested in trying it in other labs. LBL is focusing on energy storage, biology, and computing sciences. It is a leader in data transfer used for materials science, machine learning, and artificial intelligence (AI).

UC Lab Fees Research Program

Funding for the UC Lab Fees Research Program ([LFRP](#)) comes from the net fee income that UC receives for managing the Lawrence Livermore and Los Alamos National Labs. Along with campuses and the labs, ACSCOLI members provided input into the new thematic focus areas for the 2019 competition. The chosen themes were: accelerator research, quantum information science, and wildfire-related research. The program also funds an in-residence graduate student fellowship at the labs for 2-3 years. With the support of the Vice Chancellors of Research, UC hosted three thematic workshops that attracted UC researchers as well as laboratory personnel. ACSCOLI recommended that the LFRP use success metrics to track projects while they are in progress as well as at the end of the funding term and beyond.

ACSCOLI provided feedback to Academic Council Chair Robert May on the RGPO Assessment Report, noting that any changes in the management and execution of the LFRP should include close consultation with ACSCOLI.

White Paper from Office of the National Laboratories

ACSCOLI members continued discussion from last year about the draft white paper on the relationship between UC and the national laboratories. Chair Michael Todd and member William Newman prepared a one page “Executive Summary” that was reviewed by the committee that may also be used as a stand-alone document.

Joint Appointments

The topic of joint appointments between UC and the labs has been discussed over the years by ACSCOLI and other Academic Senate committees. This year, a high-level framework for joint appointments was approved at UCOP and sent to LLNL and LANL for their approval. The idea is to have a template that would be maintained at UCOP and could be individualized for each

department or faculty member as needed. After the last meeting, LANL had shared a template for such joint appointments to UC Campus Offices of Research Affairs with Chair Todd, but it hasn't yet been fully vetted or considered by any Campus as of June 2019.

Checklist for Lab Updates

As part of its due diligence, the committee prepared and approved a checklist for the update sessions with the UC Office of National Laboratories.

Restricted research and UC policies

Historically, UC has rejected contracts and grants that have citizenship and publication requirements. Although UC gets a fundamental research exclusion, which helps with export control compliance, there is some loss of funding. A new policy on research funding will be brought back eventually for consideration. There are major compliance implications for ITAR ("International Traffic in Arms Regulations") work.

Member Updates

At each meeting, UC Davis Professor Robert Powell, Chair of the Science, Technology, and Engineering Committees for the two NNSA labs, provided updates from his perspective as Faculty Observer to LANL and LLNL Boards. UCSB Professor Ram Seshadri serves on the LBNL Advisory Board on behalf of the Academic Senate and also provided regular updates about the Berkeley Lab.

REPRESENTATION

Chair Michael Todd served on the search committee for AVP Craig Leasure. Robert Powell and Peggy O'Day served on the search committee for a new Vice President for the National Laboratories to replace Kim Budil.

CORRESPONDENCE

ACSCOLI provided input on the LFRP thematic areas that were nominated for the 2019 competition and sent feedback on the Research Grants Program Office (RGPO) Current State Assessment Report to the Academic Council.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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Respectfully submitted,

2018-19 ACSCOLI members:

Michael Todd, Chair (UCSD)

Robert May, Academic Council Chair

Kum-Kum Bhavnani, Academic Council Vice Chair

Shane White, Academic Senate Past Chair, 2017-18
Andrew Baird, UCORP Chair
James Steintrager, UCPB Vice Chair
Eric Mjolsness, UCI
William Newman, UCLA
Peggy O'Day, UCM
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