

# ACADEMIC COUNCIL SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON LAB ISSUES ANNUAL REPORT 2019-20

## **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, the 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 2019-2020 academic year (AY), with the last meeting held via videoconference due to the Covid-19 pandemic. A summary of the committee's discussions is below.

### **UC Office of the National Laboratories Updates**

Last June after a brief tenure as Associate Vice President under VP Kim Budil, Craig Leasure was selected to replace Budil as the new Vice President for the UC National Laboratories (UCNL). ACSCOLI Chair Michael Todd had represented ACSCOLI on that Search Committee. At each meeting UCNL staff used the checklist developed by ACSCOLI to provide updates on the status of the three national laboratories. In May, June Yu, who was serving as acting Associate Vice President, was appointed as Associate Vice President for the UC National Laboratories. UCNL will hire a new executive director for programs.

As UCNL explores future opportunities, ACSCOLI members are clear that laboratory management should focus on UC's goals for public service, scientific research integrity (including the history with LANL), and education, both at the labs and on campuses.

### **National Laboratories Updates**

#### *Los Alamos*

ACSCOLI was updated on the Triad National Security oversight and management of Los Alamos, which began in November, 2018. Although a member of the UC Board of Regents previously chaired the combined board for LANL and LLNL, the Regents appointed a non-

Regent, Michael Anastasio, former director of Los Alamos National Laboratory and Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, to Chair the Triad Board of Directors. (A Board of Regents member, Charlene Zettel, chairs the LLNL Governing Board.) When the Covid-19 crisis hit, LANL managers were pleased that most employees were able to work from home. Although the NNSA has confirmed that LANL workers are considered essential, all labs will have some portion of the workforce working from home for some time to come. Like the campuses, the labs will need a plan for what to do when someone tests positive, and for doing testing and contact tracing.

In January, Chuck Farrar, co-Director of the UCSD-LANL Engineering Institute joined the ACSCOLI meeting to talk about the Institute and metrics used to evaluate its success. ACSCOLI is interested in how the Institute's success could be scaled up or used as a model for more programs.

#### *Lawrence Livermore*

ACSCOLI continued to receive updates on the effort to revitalize the Hertz Hall complex at Lawrence Livermore National Lab to create a small conference center for researchers and K-12 engagement. Work has also begun to develop a Southern California "hub" for laboratory-related work, similar to the plan for Hertz Hall.

Scientists from both LANL and LLNL have contributed to Covid-19 responses through research innovation and design.

#### *Berkeley Lab*

This year there continued to be new construction at the Lawrence Berkeley National Lab, including the Integrative Genomics Building, and dispersed offices are now consolidating on the hill. After dealing with PG&E shutdowns during the fire season, the lab has been working on a power sustainability plan with alternate energy sources as backup. LBNL continues to focus on energy storage, biology, and computing sciences. Berkeley Lab Director Michael Witherell joined the ACSCOLI meeting in May to provide an update on the work of the Lab's Covid-19 response, capital projects, hiring, and budget.

#### **UC Lab Fees Research Program**

ACSCOLI continued to talk about the strategic reinvestment of lab fee income and funding for the UC Lab Fees Research Program. The program was restructured a few years ago to better meet its goals for investing in academic research, and ACSCOLI would like to see more metrics to understand how the effectiveness of the program is evaluated.

#### **Joint Appointments**

Joint appointments between UC and the labs has been discussed over the years by ACSCOLI and other Academic Senate committees. This year, ACSCOLI tried to follow-up on the framework for joint appointments that was approved at UCOP and sent to LLNL and LANL for approval. However, due to the vacancy in the Vice President for Research position, information was difficult to get. ACSCOLI will continue to follow-up next year now that a new VP for Research has been appointed.

In May, LANL's David Clark joined the meeting to talk about LANL's joint appointments, which are seen as a tool for retention of scientists at the lab, as well as fostering connections. Clark is a director of LANL's National Security Education Center, which has partnerships with institutions in New Mexico and Alaska, and that would like to expand and take advantage of its relationship with UC. There are many details that have to be worked out (e.g., salary, course buy-out, intellectual property), but potential agreements in development with UCLA and UCSD could help lay the groundwork and move the process forward.

### **Senate Leadership and Other Updates**

ACSCOLI was briefed regularly on the search for a new Vice President for Research and the reorganization of the Office of Research and Graduate Studies (ORGS). In May, Theresa Maldonado, the new UC Vice President for Research & Innovation, was able to join the ACSCOLI meeting to introduce herself and update the committee on her work with the Vice Chancellors for Research on addressing the Covid-19 crisis from the point of view of researchers and UC's research enterprise.

ACSCOLI members do not report back to a corresponding campus committee, but the committee received Senate leadership updates at each meeting. The regular updates to committees help all faculty members have a broader view of the university.

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 the committee with updates about the Berkeley Lab.

### **REPRESENTATION**

This year, Chair Michael Todd served on the search committee for the Associate Vice President of the National Labs.

### **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

ACSCOLI wishes to acknowledge the contributions of its consultants and guests:

- Bart Aoki, Executive Director, Research Grants Program Office (UCOP)
- David Clark, Laboratory Fellow, National Security Education Center, Los Alamos National Laboratory
- Kathleen Erwin, Director of UC Research Initiatives (UCOP)
- Chuck Farrar, LANL-UCSD Engineering Institute Co-Director
- Brent Henrikson, Governance Director and Chief of Staff, UCNL
- Craig Leasure, Vice President for the National Laboratories
- Theresa Maldonado, UC Vice President for Research & Innovation
- Christopher Spitzer, UC Research Initiatives Program Officer (UCOP)
- Michael Witherell, Director, Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory
- June Yu, Associate VP for the National Laboratories

Respectfully submitted,  
2019-20 ACSCOLI members:

Michael Todd, Chair (UCSD)  
Kum-Kum Bhavnani, Academic Council Chair  
Mary Gauvain, Academic Council Vice Chair  
Robert May, Academic Senate Past Chair, 2018-19  
Andrew Baird, UCORP Chair  
Bruce Schumm, UCPB Vice Chair  
Eric Mjolsness, UCI  
William Newman, UCLA  
Peggy O'Day, UCM  
Ivan Schuller, UCSD  
Susannah Scott, UCSB  
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