

ACADEMIC COUNCIL SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON LAB ISSUES ANNUAL REPORT 2020-21

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.

ACSCOLI met three times during 2020-2021 academic year (AY). Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, all meetings were held via videoconference. A summary of the committee's discussions is below.

UC OFFICE OF THE NATIONAL LABORATORIES

At each ACSCOLI meeting, Vice President Craig Leasure provided updates on the national labs and the work of the UC Office of the National Laboratories. Alan Wan, UCNL's new Executive Director for Laboratory Programs, joined the May meeting.

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 Triad are overseen by the National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA), an agency within the U.S. Department of Energy. The UC Office of the National Laboratories coordinates this work for the University.

NATIONAL LABORATORIES UPDATES

Using the ACSCOLI checklist as a guide, Vice President Craig Leasure updated the committee at each meeting on the status of the three national laboratories. ACSCOLI learned how the labs were dealing with remote work during the Covid-19 pandemic. All labs had a portion of their workforce working from home for most of the year.

A national order regarding foreign visitors will require more vetting of non-US citizens who visit the labs. LANL and LLNL already have processes in place, so the change will primarily be felt at the Berkeley Lab. LBL is hoping to focus on the small percentage (around 10%) of visitors to the lab who might be exposed to sensitive areas.

There is a proposed change the way the Department of Energy Inspector General controls the process for sub-contractor incurred cost. The change will add unnecessary administrative burden to the labs, and the lab directors are working with UC's Office Federal Government Relations and national organizations to address their concerns.

Each year, the US Department of Energy conducts an evaluation of the scientific, technological, managerial, and operational performance of the contractors who manage and operate its national laboratories. These evaluations provide the basis for determining annual performance fees and award term extension, if applicable. For FY 2020, LLNL received the top overall rating of Excellent (91%) and LANL received a rating of Very Good (88%).

In the spring, ACSCOLI learned that \$200,000 of the fees the UC earns for managing the national labs will be used for a new postdoctoral fellowship in Technology and International Security. Planning for the fellowship was done in conjunction with the Institute on Global Conflict and Cooperation (IGCC), based at UCSD. LLNL and LANL will share the cost. As approved by the Board of Regents, the first cohort will comprise six postdoctoral fellows based in Washington, DC.

UC LAB FEES RESEARCH PROGRAM

ACSCOLI provided input on the three thematic areas for this year's Collaborative Research and Training (CRT) award competition. The themes are chosen collaboratively by a group consisting of deputy directors for science from LANL and LLNL, VP for the UC Office of the National Labs Craig Leasure, VP for Research & Innovation Theresa Maldonado, and directors from UCOP's Research Grants Program Office. ACSCOLI suggested that there could be more emphasis on renewable energy and carbon neutrality within the thematic areas. Full proposals are due at the end of summer, with review and selection in the fall. The campuses and labs hosted workshops for each of the three thematic areas, each of which drew over 100 participants. A separate videoconference was held for the in-residence graduate fellowship award to allow prospective applicants to talk to current participants and representatives from the labs. ACSCOLI asked to see assessment measures for the LFRP, such as feedback from fellowship program participants and statistics on how many graduate students and post-docs that were funded by LFRP go on to be employed at the labs.

JOINT APPOINTMENTS

The issue of joint appointments between UC and the labs has been discussed over the years by ACSCOLI and other Academic Senate committees. This year, ACSCOLI made progress in trying to formalize joint appointments between UC and the national labs. In May, Vice Provost for Academic Personnel and Programs Susan Carlson joined the ACSCOLI meeting to offer the personnel policy perspective. Carlson noted that campuses have many types of faculty appointments, and existing titles may be suitable for outlier situations such as joint appointments. Ideally, UC would like to see joint appointments work both ways, enabling lab employees to join UC and UC faculty to more seamlessly work at the labs. In addition, all parties should be able to take advantage of the existing relationship between the labs and UC when developing joint proposals, hiring students and post-docs, obtaining funding for R&D projects, and providing faculty with the opportunity to do classified work. Los Alamos already has joint appointments with the University of New Mexico consortium and with Texas A&M. Sticking points for

moving forward at UC include uncertainty about oversight and locus for the agreements. Institutional agreements – between a campus and a lab for example – might reside with the VC for Research, while an individual appointment plan might reside within Academic Personnel Office. Funding for appointments is another issue to be worked out.

To move forward, ACSCOLI members are working on developing examples of successful agreements that can be used as models. One such “test case” agreement is being prepared for ACSCOLI member Eric Mjolsness (UCI) to have a joint appointment at LANL; ACSCOLI Chair Michael Todd (UCSD) has also been proposed by LANL for AY 21-22 development of another agreement. VP Carlson and VP Theresa Maldonado agreed to work together to determine a central location for the model agreements. The next step after establishing joint appointment agreements will be to spread the word amongst faculty and lab personnel that the option exists.

BOARD OF REGENTS NATIONAL LABORATORY COMMITTEE

The Chair of the UC Board of Regents’ National Laboratory Committee Charlene Zettel joined ACSCOLI’s October meeting to provide an update on the work of her committee, including the search for a new Director for Lawrence Livermore National Lab and the interest in potentially expanding UC’s portfolio to other labs. Regent Zettel was appointed to the Board of Regents by Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger and her term ends on March 1. [Regent Jay Sures assumed the chair of the National Laboratory Committee on May 1st.]

REPRESENTATION AND OTHER UPDATES

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.

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

In 2020-21, ACSCOLI Chair Michael Todd served on the Screening Task Force (chaired by previous LANL Director Charles MacMillan) in the national search for the open LLNL Director position. The Screening Task Force was primarily responsible for identifying a short list of vetted, viable candidates for the Search Committee to interview and make recommendations

UC Vice President for Research & Innovation Theresa Maldonado regularly joined ACSCOLI meetings to discuss areas of common interest, including joint appointments and the research enterprise.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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

- Bart Aoki, Executive Director, Research Grants Program Office (UCOP)
- Kathleen Erwin, Director of UC Research Initiatives (UCOP)

- Craig Leasure, Vice President for the National Laboratories
- Theresa Maldonado, UC Vice President for Research & Innovation
- Alan Wan, Executive Director for Laboratory Programs
- June Yu, Associate VP for the National Laboratories

Respectfully submitted,

2020-21 ACSCOLI members:

Michael Todd, Chair (UCSD)

Mary Gauvain, Academic Council Chair

Robert Horwitz, Academic Council Vice Chair

Kum-Kum Bhavnani, Academic Senate Past Chair, 2019-20

Javad Lavaei, UCORP Representative

Darrell Long, UCSC

Sean Malloy, UCPB Chair

Eric Mjolsness, UCI

William Newman, UCLA

Peggy O'Day, UCM

Ivan Schuller, UCSD

Robert Powell, UCD

Ram Seshadri, UCSB

Staff: Joanne Miller, Academic Senate Committee Analyst