

UNIVERSITY COMMITTEE ON RESEARCH POLICY

Monday, February 8, 2016**10 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.**

Members Attending: Judith Habicht Mauche (Chair), Srikantan Nagarajan (Vice Chair), Ramona Naddaff (Berkeley), Ed Dimendberg (Irvine), Isaac Martin (San Diego), Dieter Gruenert (UCSF, via phone), Jeffrey Richman (Santa Barbara), Steve Whittaker (Santa Cruz), Rachel Hatano (Graduate Student Representative, UC Merced), Alex Dodge (Undergraduate Student Representative, San Diego)

Consultants and Guests: Bill Tucker (Interim VP, Research and Graduate Studies), Mary Croughan (Executive Director, Research Grants Program Office), Kathleen Erwin (Director, UC Research Initiatives), Christopher Spitzer (Coordinator, UC Research Initiatives), Exequiel Ezcurra (Executive Director, UC MEXUS), Wendy DeBoer (Program Director, UC MEXUS), Andrea Kaus (Program Director, UC MEXUS), Shane White (Chair, UCPB), Valerie Leppert (Chair, CCGA), Joanne Miller (Committee Analyst)

Meeting Minutes**I. Announcements and Agenda Review**

Approval of Minutes of Meeting, January 11, 2016

Committee analyst Joanne Miller will make a suggested change to the meeting minutes. They will be approved via email or at the next meeting.

Chair Judith Habicht Mauche reviewed the structure of the day's meeting, including the time to be spent with UC MEXUS leadership.

II. UC MEXUS Review

UC MEXUS Executive Director Exequiel Ezcurra gave a PowerPoint presentation highlighting the institute's budget and programs in the last ten years, and looking forward to the future of the MRU. Other than a significant decrease in 2008, the budget has been relatively stable. During the time of the budget reductions, the institute reduced staff, suspended faculty grants, downsized the travel budget, and implemented other austerity measures. The director also approached CONACYT to negotiate a more lucrative contract with UC. The institute has created pilot programs, such as one with CICESE in Baja California, to explore additional financial partnerships.

Discussion: Questions for the Executive Director focused on:

- UC-Mexico Presidential Initiative
- Budget
- Mission and MRU status
- Looking forward to a changing state and national population
- Advisory Committee
- Outreach
- Communication and interaction with OP

Director Ezcurra explained that the “carry-forward” in the budget is actually an encumbrance due to the multi-year agreement with CONACYT. The institute is trying to manage a long-term program on an annual budget.

In an attempt to find additional funding for the UC MEXUS programs, Director Ezcurra has approached public funding agencies and private funders. Public agencies generally do not want to grant awards for re-granting purposes. Private agencies are often interested in specific initiatives and not necessarily in a longstanding grant program.

Action: UCORP Chair Habicht Mauche will draft a brief report highlighting the findings of the review. The report, along with a cover letter, will be circulated to UCORP members, CCGA and UCPB for input. UCORP will discuss the report and any suggestions at its March meeting and will finalize at the April meeting. The report and letter will be sent to the Academic Council for approval. The Academic Council chair will then forward the report to the Vice President for Research and Graduate Studies.

ORGS’s Chris Spitzer will plan a conference call for the UC MEXUS Review subcommittee to make sure the group is in agreement about the overall statement and recommendations in the report.

III. Consultation with UCOP – Office of Research and Graduate Studies

Bill Tucker, Interim Vice President – Research and Graduate Studies

Interim Vice President Bill Tucker gave an update on the UC Innovation Council, which is part of President Janet Napolitano’s [Innovation and Entrepreneurship Initiative](#). The council is an external advisory body consisting of representatives from business and investing, technology, and venture capital. After 18 months of advising the university on opportunities to enhance innovation, entrepreneurship and technology commercialization, the composition of the council is now being modified to include a higher proportion of corporate members. In the coming 18 months, the Council will focus on preparing students to work in an innovation-centric society, including helping to determine the skills needed in the workforce. VP Tucker said that he would seek UCORP’s and other Academic Senate committees’ input as more work comes through the council.

VP Tucker mentioned the UC Innovation Fund, which will be led by Silicon Valley entrepreneur Vivek Ranadivé and will focus its investments on innovations emerging from the UC system. The fund will start with \$250 million in investment funds.

The search for the new position of Senior Vice President for Research Innovation and Entrepreneurship continues; the search committee will narrow the list down to three candidate names to be submitted to President Napolitano in time for the March Regents’ meeting.

The search for a new Vice President for Research Strategies and Graduate Studies will commence as soon as a chair for the search committee is selected. UCORP chair Judith Habicht Mauche will serve on that committee.

Another element of UC President Janet Napolitano's Initiative on Innovation and Entrepreneurship is "[primeUC](#)," which awards seed funding to start-ups in the life sciences. Permission has been granted to expand the program into other scientific areas.

Mary Croughan, Executive Director - Research Grants Program Office

Executive Director Mary Croughan informed the committee that UC recently became a founding member of [The Conversation](#), a faculty research media outlet with a global network that publishes all of its content under a Creative Commons license. The stories focus on academic research and often get picked up by mainstream media outlets and social media. The Conversation also offers editorial assistance and will help to get UC's stories out to the public.

Kathleen Erwin, Director – UC Research Initiatives

Director Erwin alerted the committee to two upcoming RFPs. The first is the MRPI (Multicampus Research Programs and Initiative) award competition. The RFP offers two award types: a 2-year planning/pilot award and a multi-year (up to 4-year maximum) program award. All projects must be multicampus collaborations. This year, consistent with the RFP from 2014, nominations for the President's Research Catalyst Award will be made from among the highest ranked proposals. A stand-alone Catalyst RFP will not be issued this year. A draft MRPI/Catalyst RFP will be posted for open comment, and UCORP is invited to submit consolidated committee feedback in the March meeting.

The second RFP is for the UC Laboratory Fees Research Program, which will offer two new categories of awards. One pilot award is for graduate student in-residence fellowships at one of the two national labs (LANL or LLNL). The other is one-time opportunity for multicampus-national lab collaborative research in one of three areas that have been identified by the labs as strategically important: high energy density (HED) science, mesoscale materials, and biological applications of advanced computing. Proposals must include engagement by at least four campuses and either Los Alamos National Lab or Lawrence Livermore National Lab. The draft RFP will be shared with ACSCOLI members at its February 25 meeting and available for comment by UCORP in March.

IV. Draft New Presidential Policy on International Activities

This was a preliminary "management" review of a draft policy. There will be another chance to comment during the formal systemwide review. The committee understands that the intention of the policy is to reduce risk to the university, particularly in outstanding situations. The main concerns centered around lack of clarity for the situations that would fall under category one and category two. It was suggested that the examples provided could be more concrete, and address standard situations that faculty face.

Action: Chair Habicht Mauche will send a draft of UCORP's comments to committee members via email before sending the committee's response to Vice Provost Susan Carlson (with a copy to Academic Senate Chair Dan Hare).

V. Executive Session

Committee members took more time to express their views on the UC MEXUS review and what should be included in the report.

Meeting adjourned: 4:04pm

Minutes prepared by: Joanne Miller

Attest: Judith Habicht Mauche