

UNIVERSITY COMMITTEE ON RESEARCH POLICY
Monday, January 9, 2023

Meeting Minutes

I. Chair's update, agenda review, approval of meeting minutes

Susanne Nicholas, UCORP Vice Chair

Vice Chair Susanne Nicholas led the meeting in place of Chair Cynthia Schumann, who was out sick.

Meeting minutes from November 14th and December 12th were approved.

II. LFRP Thematic Priorities for Senate Input

Kathleen Erwin, Executive Director, Research Grants Program Office

Rebecca Stanek-Rykoff, Team Lead, Research Grants Program Office

Erin Marnocha, Program Officer, Research Grants Program Office

Camille Bibeau, Executive Director, National Laboratories Partnerships and Outreach, Office of National Labs

UCORP members provided input into the thematic areas for next year's Lab Fees Research Program funding competition. The Collaborative Research and Training (CRT) opportunity is held every two years, distributing \$18-20 million in awards of up to \$4 million per award for three years. To be considered, proposals must include one national lab (Lawrence Livermore or Los Alamos) and at least three campuses.

The preliminary themes were provided by the deputy directors at LLNL and LANL in alignment with the labs' current needs. The six proposed themes, which will be cut back to three, are now being circulated to faculty and administrative groups for feedback. UCORP members were asked about ideas for additional collaboration and topics that would resonate on their campuses. Members appreciated the inclusion of community-engaged research programs. Some noted that data science at scale is an area that cuts across campuses, disciplines and offers much opportunity for collaboration. UCORP members also suggested clarification on some of the topics, including the foundational research area.

Action: UCORP members will be asked to rank the themes and offer suggestions for narrowing or expanding, and consolidated recommendations will be sent to UCOP by the end of the month.

III. Consultation with the Office of the President – Office of Research and Innovation

Theresa Maldonado, Vice President for Research and Innovation

Scott Brandt, Associate Vice President for Research and Innovation

Kathleen Erwin, Executive Director, Research Grants Program Office

Deborah Motton Executive Director, Research Policy Analysis and Coordination

Lourdes DeMattos, Director, Research Policy Analysis and Coordination

Agnes Balla, Director, Research Policy Analysis and Coordination

VP Theresa Maldonado reported that the California Climate Action RFP was posted before the holiday break and inquiries are being fielded. The next step will be to identify reviewers for the proposals.

In the aftermath of the recent graduate student strike, VP Maldonado is talking to faculty and working with VCRs on immediate next steps, including a work group that will address grant funding and related research issues. Maldonado is aware of the need for rebuilding relationships and wants to lend her support. UC systemwide HR will soon release an attestation form for faculty and graduate student workers to fill out.

UCOP's Research Policy Analysis and Coordination unit will be providing guidance to contract & grant offices.

VP Maldonado's office is still working on the innovation transformation project led by the Regents Special Committee on Innovation Transfer and Entrepreneurship. Maldonado met with the Council of Chancellors in December and determined that some campuses will continue to need UCOP support for patent and IP processes, and so rather than completely decentralize, a hybrid approach is planned. Maldonado is seeking additional input from faculty inventors and entrepreneurs who can provide the faculty perspective on UC's patent process. Maldonado would welcome a small working group that could convene for a few months (until summer 2023). UCORP members will ask within their local CORs for more faculty input.

Some campuses are working locally on their innovation transfer processes. At UCLA, the Vice Chancellor for Research reached out to the COR to request a faculty member for a new UCLA work group. It was noted that faculty involved in those local efforts might also be the appropriate people to work with VP Maldonado. UCORP will add discussions of innovation transfer as a regular agenda item.

RPAC Executive Director Deborah Motton announced that Program Manager Agnes Balla was promoted to Director at RPAC. In her new role, Balla will join UCORP members more regularly.

VP Maldonado is still interested in reviewing the portfolio of multicampus groups and how new entities can be established.

IV. MRU Reviews

The UC MEXUS MRU review group discussed the MRU's report and questions that had come up. The ITS review group will convene later in the month. The primary issue that came up for UC MEXUS reviewers was confusion about the relationship between UC MEXUS and Alianza. Other questions were about the budget, plans for the future, and overall strategic direction for the MRU.

V. Academic Senate Leadership Update

Susan Cochran, Academic Council Chair

James Steintrager, Academic Council Vice Chair

The Board of Regents meeting that was held before the winter break was disrupted by striking graduate students. The Regents discussed UCLA football's move from the Pac-12 to the Big-10 and determined that UCLA has to provide funding to UC Berkeley to mitigate the loss in revenue that will result. This appears to be an unprecedented arrangement and some wonder whether it could happen in other areas (online education, research funding).

The new systemwide Provost Katherine Newman started at UC this week, replacing Michael Brown.

In the aftermath of the graduate student strike, AVP for Academic Personnel Douglas Haynes sent guidance to EVCs regarding work effort certifications for grants. PIs are advised not to sign certifications unless they are sure that work was done. There will soon be work attestation forms available from UCOP. Faculty are concerned about immediate strike and contractual impacts, including on current grant submissions. They want clarification on whether faculty can determine if and how they can fund a graduate student, and their ability to let the student go if the cost is too high. For example, will faculty be required to dip into other research or discretionary funds to cover cost increases, or will the university assist faculty in covering the difference?

Chair Cochran said that some academic programs are reducing the number of students for next year and noted that "bumping" – part of the union agreement that allows a grad student to take the place of another – could be another issue. In addition, the union will provide have rules around what "step" a GSR is entitled to.

Chair Cochran clarified that the difference in salaries at Berkeley, Los Angeles, and San Francisco agreed to in the union contract were already in place prior to the strike. Apparently both parties wanted to maintain the higher salary bases at those campuses, so differences in salaries may continue.

UCORP members again talked about partial tuition waivers from the university for doctoral students who are beyond coursework. Often these students work 100% time and are only paid for 20 hours due to caps on the percent of time they are allowed to work. Chair Cochran said that she had raised a similar issue with the Provost, and that it would be useful for a budget person look at the full range of options and outcomes.

VI. Wrap up, next steps for MRU reviews

Follow-up and action items included:

- UCORP members can provide additional input into the LFRP themes after the meeting.
- The MRU review groups will work on preliminary comments and questions for the directors through January.
- Faculty/CORs should ask their VCRs for the guidance for PIs.
- UCORP members will follow up on the discussion of innovation transfer challenges for faculty with VP Maldonado.

Meeting adjourned: 12:25

Meeting minutes drafted by Joanne Miller, UCORP analyst

Attest: Susanne Nicholas, UCORP Vice Chair