

## UNIVERSITY COMMITTEE ON RESEARCH POLICY

Monday, January 10, 2022

**Meeting Minutes****I. Chair's Announcements, Approval of Meeting Minutes***Karen Bales, UCORP Chair*

**Action taken:** Meeting minutes from December 13, 2021 were approved.

Chair Bales asked members if anyone had research-related news about the pivot to remote teaching at the quarter campuses where classes are back in session. Although there are differences by campus, the research enterprise is generally not falling under the same remote restrictions. Lab courses at some campuses are able to meet in person, although at other campuses students cannot be required to participate in person.

**II. UCORP Response to Report of the Regents Working Group on Innovation Transfer and Entrepreneurship**

**Action taken:** UCORP's letter in response to the Regents Working Group on Innovation Transfer and Entrepreneurship was approved.

**III. Consultation with the Office of the President – Office of Research and Innovation***Bart Aoki, Executive Director, Research Grants Programs Office**Kathleen Erwin, Director, UC Research Initiatives**Deborah Motton Executive Director, Research Policy Analysis and Coordination**Lourdes DeMattos, Associate Director, Research Policy Analysis and Coordination**Emily Rader, Research Portfolio Manager*

- **General updates:**

Vice President Maldonado's climate resilience initiative budget proposal to the state is moving forward. The search for a new UC Observatories Executive Director is almost completed. The reconstitution of the Council on Research is progressing.

- **Policy updates from the Office of Research Policy Analysis and Coordination (RPAC):**

**NAGPRA update** – UC's new policy is now in place as of Jan. 1, 2022. There will need to be changes to UC practices based on changes to the state and national laws. Prior approval from Native American tribes is now required for all research uses of identified or potential human remains. UC has been inventorying Native American items since 1990, and continues to add items as they are acquired and to search for items that may have been overlooked. In particular, ethnographic and archeologic materials may not be included in past inventory efforts. Each campus has a NAGPRA committee and a repatriation coordinator from the faculty or administration. VC-Rs have been asked to be the public face for UC's NAGPRA efforts.

**COI and disclosure guidance** - There are updated guidelines regarding conflict of interest and disclosure for funding from foreign governments.

**Research Data Ownership policy** – The policy will be distributed for a second, 60-day systemwide review.

**Gifts and Other Sponsored Awards policy** – The policy is close to completion. It will be reviewed by UC's Policy Advisory Committee before issuance.

**Regents Innovation Group Recommendations** – Vice President Maldonado has briefed the chancellors and President Drake regarding proposed actions from UCOP. The Research and Innovation staff is identifying priorities for addressing recommendations from the report. The big issues are conflict of interest, equity

management, and patent. Policies related to these topics will either be revised, rescinded, or completely overhauled. Academic Senate will be consulted. VP Maldonado will meet again with the Council of Chancellors in early February to talk about which recommendations to move ahead.

- ***UC Research Initiatives: MRPI update***

After last month's discussion about potential changes to the MRPI competition, UCORP proposed that the program's goals, strategies, and consideration of impact be thoroughly and comprehensively reviewed to ensure optimal use of the funding. The COVCR will discuss UCORP's suggestion later this week.

UCORP's suggestion was to delay the upcoming MRPI competition to allow time for a review, but in the meeting, the committee was informed that postponement might mean loss of funds. The competition for this year, therefore, will proceed largely unchanged. But discussions will begin immediately regarding changes for the next round of awards.

UCORP members offered suggestions for potential changes that would help limit award applicants, including capping disciplines, campuses, or dollar amounts, or by tracking applications based on agreed-upon criteria.

#### **IV. MRU Reviews**

The CCGA liaisons joined the meeting and the MRU Review Groups reviewed questions for the MRU directors, who will join the UCORP meeting in February. The group also discussed how to solicit more relevant information rather than the overly-detailed lists included in the MRUs' reports appendixes. In contrast, the bodies of the reports are written very broadly with little detail. It can be difficult to grasp the importance of an MRU, its usefulness within the university, and its impact in the world.

Specific questions for the MRU directors relate to budget, diversity, and participation planning. UCORP will continue to discuss recommendations for revisions to the MRU review templates to make them more useful.

#### **V. Academic Senate Leadership Update**

*Robert Horwitz, Academic Council Chair*

*Susan Cochran, Academic Council Vice Chair*

*Graduate Student Researchers union* – UC has agreed to recognize the Graduate Student Researchers union but will uphold the distinction between students and employees. Cases at the margins will likely need to be mediated. A topic that UCORP might consider is whether PIs will determine that it makes more fiscal sense to hire post-docs rather than GSRs, which will adversely impact the graduate student experience. If UCORP sees this as a potential problem, then it might consider writing a letter to the Academic Council with its concerns. Since this is also a graduate student issue, UCORP could join with CCGA to look at possible impacts.

*Expanding Academic Senate Membership to other academic titles* – There are periodically discussions about expanding the Academic Senate to include additional academic appointee titles. The Academic Council has had discussions about groups that want to be members of the Academic Senate, including Unit 18 Lecturers (which is now settled for five years with the new contract). Clinicians from UC's Health Science campuses are another group. A recent report from the UC Health Sciences DEI Task Force makes the case that poor clinician morale is in part due to exclusion from the Academic Senate. The responsibilities and job descriptions of clinical faculty are generally very different from ladder-rank faculty, although there are some Health Science titles that are included in the Academic Senate. The Academic Senate has the role of partner in the shared governance of managing the university, and some clinicians feel left out of that. The Academic Council has convened an ad-hoc task force composed of a subset of Academic Council members, almost all of whom have some medical experience and understand how the Health Science series' work.

*State budget* – The governor just announced a \$45.7 billion budget surplus in the state of California. This bodes well for UC.

*Inflation impacts on retirees* – With increases in the cost of living, some retiree pensions may be at risk of falling below 75% purchasing power.

*Climate Crisis Memorial* – The ad-hoc Climate Crisis Task Force recommended that the Academic Senate send a “[memorial](#)” to the Board of Regents asking that investments be made to sharply reduce fossil fuel use on the campuses. The Academic Council voted unanimously to endorse the proposal, which will be sent to the Assembly of the Academic Senate for a vote at the Feb. 9<sup>th</sup> meeting. If the Assembly endorses the memorial, then it will be sent to Academic Senate members on all campuses for a vote.

*Advice and guidance for faculty on conflict of interest and compliance* – The Academic Senate leaders have encouraged UCOP to offer advice and guidance for faculty on how to comply with conflict of interest and disclosure requirements. There are other roadblocks, such as the “OATS” system, that will take some time to change. Senate leaders have also asked that there be a process for UC medical staff and students working in affiliate institutions to file complaints without risk to their careers.

*Online undergraduate degrees* – At some point the Academic Senate will need to reach a consensus regarding whether fully online undergraduate programs are acceptable. Research opportunities will be an important consideration in discussions.

## **VI. Systemwide Review Items**

- *Proposed Revisions to APM 759, Leaves of Absence/Other Leaves Without Pay*

Committee members reviewed the draft letter and suggested for adding more about the impact of extended leaves on department workloads.

- *Proposed Revisions to APM 025 and APM 671, Conflict of Commitment and Outside Activities of Faculty Members*

Committee members were concerned about chairs and deans having the proper knowledge to monitor compliance. They also noted the additional administrative burden on faculty, and the potential delays from having to go through a prior approval process. IT approvals already take time and cause delays.

**Action:** Two draft letters will be circulated for UCORP member approval.

## **VII. Wrap up, Next steps**

**New item:** Based on the conversation with Academic Council Chair Robert Horwitz, UCORP might want to write a letter to the Academic Council about the potential impact of graduate student unionization on research programs. The fear is that increased costs for hiring GSRs will mean that PIs hire post-docs instead of graduate students. Additional grant (or other) funds will be needed to maintain research staffing levels. UCORP could weigh in on where additional funding might come from.

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Meeting minutes drafted by: Joanne Miller, Committee Analyst  
Attest: [Karen Bales, UCORP Chair]

### **Meeting participants:**

**Committee Members:** Karen Bales (Chair), Tannishtha Reya (Vice Chair), Javad Lavaei (Berkeley), Cynthia Schumann (Davis), Michele Guindani (Irvine), Susanne Nicholas (Los Angeles), Danko Turcic (Riverside alternate), Jason Sexton (Merced), Stephanie Richards (San Diego), David Stuart (Santa Barbara), Jarmila Pittermann (Santa Cruz), Daniel Halpern-DeVries (Undergraduate Student, UC Santa Cruz), Robert Horwitz (Academic Council Chair), Susan Cochran (Academic Council Vice Chair)

**Consultants, Guests, and Staff:** Bart Aoki (Executive Director, Research Grants Program Office), Kathleen Erwin (Director, UC Research Initiatives), Deborah Motton (Executive Director, Research Policy Analysis and Coordination), Lourdes DeMattos (Associate Director, Policy Analysis and Coordination), Joanne Miller (Committee Analyst)