

UNIVERSITY COMMITTEE ON RESEARCH POLICY

Monday, January 14, 2019

Videoconference

Meeting Minutes**1. MRU Discussion**

UCORP Chair Andrew Baird said that the MRU review report sections are coming together and the committee should be on track for finishing in March, which will enable the reports to be ready in time for the April Academic Council meeting.

- **INPAC Director Bernard Sadoulet**

UC Institute for Nuclear/Particle Astrophysics and Cosmology (INPAC) Director Bernard Sadoulet joined the videoconference to provide an overview of INPAC and its work over the years. The participants in the institute come from nine campuses (all but UCSF) and three labs. INPAC got its start as a network of a few campuses that were engaged in particle physics. In the early 1990s, the scope was expanded to nuclear astrophysics & cosmology. The original funding levels were low but stable, and there was a meeting every two years or so. A systemwide review in 2000 concluded that INPAC was worthwhile and the funding was increased and remained stable until 2008 when the MRU program was reorganized and most ongoing funding was transitioned to the MRPI program. From 2009-2014 the institute had MRPI funding, which was used as cost-sharing support for groups at UCSC and UCLA.

Lack of ongoing funding has had a negative effect on the institute, and will impact succession planning as INPAC looks for a new director. The members feel that offering a teaching release to allow time for fundraising and administrative duties would help attract a new director. Currently, there are approximately 20 members who participate in regular meetings who hope to at least maintain general periodic meetings.

Sadoulet sees the key benefit of INPAC as the competitive advantage it brings to put UC at the center of major new projects. He emphasized that the R&D from INPAC researchers into dark matter, high energy astrophysics, and neutrinos has led to cutting-edge experiments and high visibility contributions with worldwide impact. Other benefits include strengthening the links between the national labs and the campuses, attracting junior scientists to the labs, and potentially attracting new funding. INPAC holds an intensive winter/summer “school” for junior scientists. Undergraduate students have been involved in R&D meetings – by helping with organization they get an introduction to the research as well. INPAC also supports 1-2 undergraduates at UC Merced where there is no astrophysics major. Sadoulet feels that INPAC has contributed to developing a more diverse pipeline for physics and astrophysics, as the ratio of women involved in the institute is greater than typically found in the fields.

Sadoulet said that even a small amount of funding from UCOP would be effective in increasing INPAC’s abilities for outreach. Just \$100,000 would be instrumental in attracting matching funds from campuses.

Sadoulet said that he would provide testimonials offering support for the impact of INPAC in its field.

Some points brought up in discussion were:

- The crucial importance of finding a new director.
- Ideas for increasing the institute's visibility within UC and externally.
- Whether there is anything particular to INPAC that distinguishes the group from other networks of UC researchers that gather across UC system, and that would warrant special systemwide funding.
- Conveying the impact of INPAC to the UC system in leveraging funding to foster very large and successful projects.
- How INPAC can come across more dynamically and apply for funding as a unit, perhaps attracting investments from external funders.

Action: The INPAC review team may schedule an additional conference call to determine the recommendations for INPAC and also potentially for the systemwide MRU program.

- **UCHRI**

Due to time constraints, the UCHRI discussion was postponed. The review report is in progress.

2. Policies Under Review

- a. [Proposed Revisions to Presidential Policy on Use of Vehicles and Driver Selection \(BFB-BUS-46\)](#) (Comments due Jan. 16, 2019)

Action: Draft letter approved. Chair Baird will send to Academic Council Chair Robert May.

- b. [Proposed Presidential Policy on Open Access for Theses and Dissertations](#) (Comments due March 13, 2019)

Action: UCORP will return to the proposed policy at its February meeting.

3. Fetal Tissue Research Response

UCORP discussed how the committee would respond to the proposed restrictions from the federal government on the use of fetal tissue for research. At issue is the specific notice from NIH to UCSF, as well as the overarching question of increased politicization of science. Academic Council Chair Robert May and Vice Chair Kum-Kum Bhavnani joined the discussion.

The committee began with a review of UCSF's response, which was included in the meeting agenda packet. The letter from the UCSF Divisional Senate will be discussed at next week's Academic Council meeting. In addition to the UCSF notice, there is news reporting that the NIH is looking to find alternatives to fetal tissue to use in laboratory research. Fetal tissue is most crucial in researching cures for diseases that are only found in humans, such as cancer, Zika, and HIV, as well as for research in human growth and development.

UCORP members suggested finding out whether other institutions had received notice similar to UCSF, and to find out how they are responding.

Suggestions for UCORP's letter to Academic Council included conveying:

- Fetal tissue research is a small fraction of overall research.
- It saves many lives.
- It is used with CRISPR applications for eliminating childhood diseases.

- It is key in maintaining UC's and the nation's role as leaders in scientific breakthroughs.
- All UC research is vetted, peer-reviewed, and conducted at the highest ethical standards.

Action: Chair Baird will draft a letter to circulate to UCORP this week. Members should respond quickly if they have any edits or changes so that it can be sent to Academic Council by the end of the week.

In a related topic, UC Davis member Karen Bales alerted the committee to new legislation proposed by Senator Cory Booker of New Jersey to restrict primate research. The December 18, 2018, press release from the Senator's office uses some of the same terminology as animal-rights activists. In 2013, the NIH reviewed chimpanzee research and eventually eliminated most of it. Academic Council Chair Robert May will refer the issue to UC's Federal Government Relations team, which works with Senate staff members and can take positions on issues.

4. Approval of UCORP meeting minutes from Dec. 10, 2018

Meeting minutes from December 10, 2018 were approved.

5. New Business – Campus Reports

UC Berkeley – COR met with a SPO representative, who led an informative discussion on how grant proposals are processed and the reason for SPO deadlines that are a week prior to the NIH (et.al.) funding agency deadlines.

UC Davis –Gearing up for their grant competition and have been asked to comment on the disestablishment of the textile major. Working on the publication support survey from UCSD.

UC Irvine – The local committee has been reviewing the systemwide policies under review, and also reviewing centers and ORUs.

UCLA – The local committee is updating its bylaws concerning institutes and ORUs and is having general discussion about open access and UC's policies. The VC-R suggested an "impact" award for UCLA's anniversary that would recognize research that has made an impact on the community.

UC Merced – Working on the new ORU policy and changes to limited submission procedures.

UC San Diego – Waiting for responses to publication support services survey.

UCSF – The local COR will hear from the Office of Ethics and Compliance about changes to the Federal Policy for the Protection of Human Research Subjects, also known as the Common Rule. The committee has been monitoring the Elsevier negotiations. They have been informed that the pre-award business model will be changing for the fourth time in six years; there will be a tax on a percentage of indirect costs. The committee has awarded fall pilot project grants and determined that special chancellor funds will be used to support conference travel.

UC Santa Barbara – Talking about "composite benefit rates" – the rules for charging have changed within UC, although it seems that some campuses have already implemented and some have not. Instead of different benefits rates depending on status, there is now a composite rate that is supposed to avoid hiring discrimination based on the benefit cost of specific individuals. At UCSB, this change

has resulted in what seems like a universal increase in costs to the grant. The local committee has been in touch with the campus Vice Chancellor of Administrative Services.

UC San Diego still uses individual rates, while UC Davis made the change to composite a few years ago. UCORP members are asked to find out policies at their campus, and what the impact has been. The topic will be added to the UCORP February agenda with additional background.

UC Santa Cruz –Over holidays, the local committee adjudicated new faculty research grants for faculty who have been at UCSC for a year of less. Gearing up for regular round of grant adjudications. There have been discussions with the VC-R about the federal government shutdown and the impact on NSF grants. The group continues to explore ways to facilitate smoother handling of proposals by the Office of Sponsored Projects.

6. Next steps

Next month: Composite benefit rate, any follow-up on fetal tissue research.

Meeting minutes drafted by: Joanne Miller, UCORP committee analyst

Attest: Andrew Baird, UCORP Chair

Meeting participants:

Andrew Baird (Chair, SD), Nasrin Rahimieh (Vice Chair, I), Irina Conboy (B), Karen Bales (D), Jeffrey Barrett (I), Julian Martinez (LA), Michael Scheibner (M), KK Ramakrishnan (R), Brian Eliceiri (SD), Stuart Gansky (SF), Harry Nelson (SB), Jarmila Pittermann (SC), Tejasvinee Mody (Graduate Student Representative, UCR), Robert May (Academic Senate Chair), Kum-Kum Bhavnani (Academic Senate Vice Chair), Gina Dent (CCGA liaison to UCHRI Review), Steve Constable (UCPB liaison to INPAC review), Kathleen Erwin (UCOP), Joanne Miller (Committee Analyst)