

UNIVERSITY COMMITTEE ON RESEARCH POLICY

Tuesday, November 12, 2019

Videoconference

Meeting Minutes**I. Chair's Announcements***Andrew Baird, UCORP Chair*

Chair Baird reviewed the agenda and updated the committee on relevant items, including:

- VP for Research & Innovation search
- Status of negotiations with Elsevier are unknown but there has been no change.
- There is interest in increasing the visibility of UC's research enterprise to elected officials. Academic Chair Kum-Kum Bhavnani is canvassing ideas for how to increase visibility, explain the importance of research, and the crucial role of research in graduate education.

A Working Group on Research Information Management Systems (RIMS) has been convened with Chair Baird as a representative from UCORP. UCORP members are asked to review the RIMS report prior to the next meeting: <https://senate.universityofcalifornia.edu/files/reports/rm-jn-mb-rims.pdf>.

Chair Baird asked if anyone was interested in joining the Task Force on Agriculture and Natural Resources as a UCORP representative (<https://senate.universityofcalifornia.edu/committees/tfanr/>).

Action: UCORP members are asked to fill out a new UCORP Survey about their local committee on research for the next meeting.

MRU Review Committee assignments were distributed and outlines for each report have been created. Each Review Committee will need to divide up the sections. The process includes discussion with the MRU Directors in February or March. Draft reports should be ready in April. Review criteria can be found in the "Compendium," chapter 5 and appendix H. (https://www.ucop.edu/institutional-research-academic-planning/files/compendium_sept2014.pdf) MRU functions include: facilitating research and research collaborations; disseminating research results through research conferences, meetings, and other activities; strengthening graduate and undergraduate education by providing students with training opportunities and access to facilities; seeking extramural research funds; and carrying out University and public service programs related to the MRU's area of expertise.

UCORP members were provided with a chart of systemwide/multicampus research programs that staff from ORGS prepared last year. The purpose was to get an idea of the funding streams available and the scope of multi-campus research work at UC.

Chair Baird revised the draft Climate Change letter from UCORP to the Academic Council, and is in the process of discussing the recommendations with other Academic Senate committees. The idea is to get the Academic Senate to take a leadership role in promoting research around climate change solutions. The Lab Fees program was included as an example of where UC could put resources toward climate change research. A similar resolution will be sent to the Academic Council from UC Merced.

Meeting minutes from October 14 Meeting Minutes were approved.

II. Proposed Revised Presidential Policy on Copyright Ownership (Comments due Dec. 3)

UCORP members discussed the Proposed Revised Presidential Policy on Copyright Ownership and several divisions have questions about the terms. UC Davis has drafted some specific questions, while others have questions about Sponsored Works and joint ownership of copyrighted works.

Action: UCORP members should send their questions to UCORP analyst Joanne Miller by November 21. A draft letter will be circulated to members for approval before sending to Academic Council.

III. Academic Senate Leadership Update

Kum-Kum Bhavnani, Academic Council Chair

Mary Gauvain, Academic Council Vice Chair

Academic Council Chair Kum-Kum Bhavnani briefly mentioned the following issues currently being tracked by the Senate:

- New UC President search.
- The Board of Regents will discuss employee contributions to pensions at tomorrow's meeting in San Francisco. More information can be found on the agenda for the November 12-14. Board of Regents' meeting.
- Cohort tuition will also be a discussion item for the Board of Regents.
- The Comprehensive Access Working Group is developing principles to apply to agreements between UC and other health systems.
- Admissions audit by the State Auditor's office.
- UC still has no access to current Elsevier publications. [The latest information can be found via the UC Office of Scholarly Communication: <https://osc.universityofcalifornia.edu/open-access-at-uc/publisher-negotiations/uc-and-elsevier/>]
- A General Obligation bond will be on the next California ballot. If passed it will provide \$2 billion for UC for capital improvements.
- UCSF is beginning a re-build of the Parnassus campus.
- UCFW is starting to work on childcare issues.
- The Standardized Testing Task Force is planning on releasing a preliminary report in January.
- A Diversity Task Force is still in the planning stages and will extend and compliment the work of UCAADE.
- The Online Degree Task Force will begin soon.
- A working group is developing guidelines for disciplinary sanctions to increase parity across the campuses.

Chair Bhavnani informed the committee that Regent Cecilia Estolano suggested that the faculty might investigate how to better communicate UC's research to lawmakers. Regent Estolano will be invited to attend the Academic Council meeting in February. Chair Bhavnani will convene a small group comprising UCORP Chair Andrew Baird, Academic Council Vice Chair Mary Gauvain, Regent Estolano, and Bhavnani for further discussion.

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

Bart Aoki, Executive Director, Research Grants Program Office

Kathleen Erwin, Director, UC Research Initiatives

- MRU reviews for this year (UCO and BIC)

The Review Committee is invited to the Lick Observatory for a visit on Dec. 9. UCO and BIC directors will be invited to the February UCORP meeting. The Review Committees will develop questions in advance to send to Directors.

- Other MRU Annual Reports

UCORP members might look at the MRU review of ITS from two years ago to check on whether the committee's recommendations were reflected in the ITS annual report. Of the two MRUs reviewed last year, INPAC did not submit an annual report.

- Multicampus Research Programs and Initiatives ([website](#))

For 2020, MRPI will once again offer two-year pilot awards and four-year program awards.

Director Erwin asked for input regarding the use of a Letter of Intent review panel to filter the application pool. Because the funding has decreased and interest remains high, the success rate has fallen to around 6-10%. The quality of the applications remains very high, but applicants become discouraged with such a low likelihood of success. Erwin described the President's Research Catalyst Award from a few years ago that had a significant LOI review that eliminated proposals. Members agreed that a target 25-33% success rate would be reasonable.

UCORP suggested that some of the MRPI funding be dedicated to efforts to combat and mitigate the effects of climate change, and Director Erwin said she would bring that up with the other stakeholders. If UC put more emphasis on climate change research, it might attract the attention of the state legislature and help further UC's efforts to promote its research enterprise with State government. A more targeted RFP may also reduce the number of applicants. Members also asked about prioritization of awards, and whether priority is given to those in areas that are not well-funded from other agencies.

The RFP for the MRPI awards will go out in March. The LOI review would take place in April/May.

- Other updates

The Lab Fees Research Program has chosen the awardees that will receive the \$22.6 million in new funding that is the fee income for UC's management of the National Laboratories. There will be an announcement soon, after applicants are informed.

Committee members briefly discussed the utility of UC compiling a central clearinghouse for research funding.

Action: The committee will summarize its comments about MRPI to send to Academic Council Chair Kum-Kum Bhavnani. UCORP would like to see the MRPI budget restored to historical levels. Coordination is needed to respond.

V. Cancer Research Coordinating Committee

Guest: Karen Oegema, UCSD, Chair of CRCC

CRCC Chair Karen Oegema joined the meeting to discuss UCORP's ideas for possible changes to the way the CRCC's funding is distributed. Oegema has been a member of the Cancer Research Coordinating Committee since 2014. It was formerly run by a faculty member at UC Davis, but is now administered by the Research Grants Program Office at UCOP. Oegema expressed her appreciation of and respect for the program. UCORP members described their explorations of multicampus programs and their funding, and the committee's desire to ensure that funding is being used optimally. One goal for multicampus programs is to increase collaboration between researchers.

Currently, the CRCC gives out grants of \$75,000 to individual researchers who are generally early in their careers and represent a broad range of cancer expertise, including technological innovations and basic research. Now that some funds are from a tax write-off, funding is provided for epidemiological studies. The return on investment is quite high at 13:1 in extramural funding. Four years after receiving CRCC funding the grantees are contacted for updates. The information is included in the Committee's annual report.

Oegema agreed that CRCC money could be used in ways that could promote more partnering among campuses. The way that research is conducted has changed since the committee was established, and there is more collaborative work. The CRCC is run democratically, and any change would have to be discussed by a Steering Committee and brought to the full committee to consider. Ideas for other types of funding included seeking matching funds from cancer institutes or centers, increasing the grants to two years, and removing the current cut-off for allowable funding from other sources (or limiting it to one participant).

UCORP agreed to come up with a proposal to send to Oegema for the CRCC to review.

Action: UCORP members Tannishtha Reya will draft a proposal for UCORP to review and discuss in December.

Videoconference ended at: 12:30pm

Meeting minutes drafted by: Joanne Miller, UCORP Analyst

Attest: Andrew Baird, UCORP Chair