UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA Academic Senate

University Committee on Research Policy

Meeting Minutes
Monday, November 18, 2024

I. Chair's announcements, agenda review, approval of minutes

UCORP Chair Susanne Nicholas reviewed the agenda and notified committee members that UCORP's in-person meeting would be on March 10th. The meeting will be held in Oakland from 10am to 3:30 or 4pm.

UCORP provides a liaison to the Academic Council Special Committee on Laboratory Issues (ACSCOLI). Upcoming (virtual) meetings are scheduled for Jan. 27th and May 19th [Update: After the meeting, UCSB rep Stephanie Malia Hom agreed to serve as UCORP's liaison.]

Chair Nicholas went over the process for this year's five-year reviews of two multicampus research units (MRUs): the UC Observatories and the Bioengineering Institute of California. Members will be divided into two review groups, read the reports of the MRUs assigned to them, fill out a form with strengths and weaknesses of the unit, and send comments to their group leads (with a copy to the analyst).

UCSC rep Nirvikar Singh, who is serving as the UCORP chair's designee on the APC Workgroup on Systemwide Academic Calendar, provided a brief update on the discussion at the workgroup's first meeting. The workgroup is tasked with assessing the feasibility of coordinating the academic calendar across all campuses. The outcome will either be a recommendation to retain the status quo or for all campuses to adopt a semester calendar. The group was convened at the behest of systemwide Provost Katherine Newman, who seems keen to switch to semesters. The group discussed impact on students, including the ability to obtain summer internships. It was noted that many research funding proposals have January deadlines, which could be helped by a semester schedule. The next step will be a cost exercise, which will be conducted mainly by the administrators on the workgroup. There seems to be a national trend of moving from quarters to semesters, including Ohio State and the CSUs. Members asked about whether the analysis would include the cost to faculty to change all coursework from quarters to semesters.

Action: Meeting minutes from UCORP's October 14th meeting were approved.

II. UC Congress on Research Planning - Update
Cynthia Schumann, UC Davis Professor and prior UCORP chair (2022-24)
Theresa Maldonado, Vice President for Research and Innovation

UC Davis professor and immediate past UCORP Chair (2022-24) Cyndi Schumann joined the meeting to talk about the planning of the UC Congress on Research, which will occur March 11-12th at UCLA. Schumann has been working with Vice President for Research and Innovation Theresa Maldonado on keynote speakers, panel topics, and guests. The humanities will be represented on

at least on panel. A suggestion was made for a back-up speaker: the president of the American Council of Learned Societies (ACLS) Joy Connolly.

One of the themes will be funding and philanthropy, with a potential focus on strategies for attracting funding. UCORP members talked about having to justify the need for funding in basic science and the need to emphasize the inherent value of research in these areas. Communicating complex ideas to funders will be another area of focus. There was a brief discussion of UCHRI, which underwent its five-year review last year, and whether it could be a panel – or the starting point for a panel – at the conference.

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

- *Vice President for Research & Innovation*

Vice President for Research & Innovation Theresa Maldonado noted the exciting announcement that California (Silicon Valley) was selected as the headquarters for the National Semiconductor Technology Center – a key facility for the CHIPS Act – and her part in that.[1]

- *Office of Research Policy Analysis and Coordination (RPAC)*
  - Use of Animals in Research, Teaching and Testing – Policy Revision

Research Policy Manager Dragana Alexander described the revisions to UC's policy on the use of animals in research and teaching. The revised title has been extended to include "testing," to align with regulatory requirements. Most of the revisions to the policy were made to bring it up to date with current federal regulations and current practices. Compliance responsibility has been extended beyond the chancellor and VP level to include the campus Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) programs and PIs. Minimum procedural requirements have also been added, as well as more extensive links to relevant resources and guides. The policy was distributed for systemwide review on November 15th.

  - UC policy for Dual Use Research of Concern and Pathogens with Enhanced Pandemic Potential (DURC-PEPP)

Research Policy Manager Timothy Miller reported on the revised UC policy for Dual Use Research of Concern and Pathogens with Enhanced Pandemic Potential (DURC-PEPP). The policy, which combines two existing UC guidance documents, aligns with new government regulations. Vice Chancellors for Research are responsible for compliance, but more immediate responsibility falls to the PIs to understand the governmental and UC policies. The policy will be distributed for formal systemwide review within next few weeks, with a target issuance date of May 2025 (as required by the US government). A DURC workgroup with representatives from across the campuses is working with other UC groups on guidance materials and training.

- *UC Research Initiatives*

Executive Director Kathleen Erwin provided brief updates on current research initiatives:
  - Firefighter Cancer Prevention and Research Program – manages funds from the State for community-based participatory research projects to reduce the incidence of cancer among California firefighters. Results from proposal review will be announced soon.[2]

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[1] https://business.ca.gov/california-selected-as-headquarters-for-the-national-semiconductor-technology-center/
[2] https://ucop.edu/research-initiatives/programs/initiatives-spfunds/firefighter-cancer.html

- Multicampus Research Programs and Initiatives (MRPI) is underway.[3]
- Workshops on the latest Lab Fees Research Program (LFRP) Collaborative Research and Training award themes will be hosted at UC Irvine and UC San Diego. The LFRP Graduate Fellows program review panel meets this month to select next year's fellow.[4]
- Letters of Interest for the AI at Scale partnership pilot are due in December.[5]

IV. Local Committee Reports (Round-Robin)

Committee members reported on issues facing their local Committee on Research and other research-related campus news.

UC Irvine – CORCL has been focusing on computing-related topics, including compliance with President Drake's February letter and implications for computing research, email policies, and academic freedom. The search for a new VCR has raised interest in better defining the role of the VCR.

UCLA – A small subgroup drafted a statement of principles for the new research park in West LA. COR was asked to review a document on campus demonstrations and determine any impact on the research enterprise (such as switching to remote work on short notice). UCLA is facing capacity issues with its Google cloud workspace, which will impact researchers. For its faculty grants program, UCLA has moved away from proposal review to an allocation approach.

UC Riverside – COR is seeking information about the new GSR contracts and the impacts of gaps between funding versus actual cost. One goal is to find out how many faculty have *not* submitted grants due to the high cost of GSRs and whether faculty have taken advantage of bridge funding provided by the administration.

UCSF – At UCSF, the Committee on Research (COR) is evaluating potential strategies to support faculty advancement and compensation. COR also addressed the low number of nominations for the Annual Faculty Research Lecture and considered ways to increase participation. Meanwhile, the Academic Senate is studying funding policies of the National Institute of General Medical Sciences (NIGMS), with a focus on the R35 mechanism for basic science investigators.

UC Davis – Concerns include two-factor authentication for faculty who use alternative email clients, GSRs salaries, and research administration support. The Senate is preparing a survey to gather faculty impressions of the new financial system, Aggie Enterprise, which has been extremely disruptive. Complaints have included the inability to see fund balances and an unhelpful helpdesk system. The VCR and chancellor have expressed their support.

UC San Diego – The administration has provided funds to cover gaps for GSR salaries. The financial system continues to be a huge problem in every unit, with more deficits arising just in the past six months. Improvements such as training and new software to pull data from various sources to

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[3] https://ucop.edu/research-initiatives/programs/mrpi/
[4] https://ucop.edu/research-initiatives/programs/lab-fees/
[5] https://www.lanl.gov/engage/collaboration/nsec/uc-ai-call

make it easier to use Oracle are being tested, with a completion timeframe in June 2025. An extra COR meeting was held to talk to talk to the leader of the improvement effort, and that went well.

UC Merced – UC Merced also continues to suffer from the Oracle debacle and is also adding an interface layer with the data warehouse. Staff retention is a huge problem. Merced is interested in learning what other campuses are doing to fund GSR salary gaps. UCM may be close to becoming a R1 classified university and the COR is discussing what happens after that.

UC Santa Barbara:
o   Senior leadership turnover and searches.
o   Revamping the faculty grants program and aligning the travel grant policy with campus sustainability goals.
o   Cybersecurity and compliance with President Drake's February letter by the May 2025 deadline
o   The need for a shared data repository for the UC Natural Reserve System (NRS).
o   GSR and ASE (academic student employee) contracts – one-time bridge funding was provided by the administration. The focus now turns to review of curriculum and workload. The administration found that hundreds of courses in the course catalog were not taught over the last few years is looking at ways to adjust curriculum planning and workload accordingly.

V. Academic Senate Leadership Update
Academic Council Vice Chair Ahmet Palazoglu joined the meeting to provide an overview of current activities of the Senate.

Regents:
The Board of Regents approved UC's operating budget for the coming year, including an increase to non-resident tuition of 9.9% for the incoming cohort (this includes a built-in return-to-aid of approximately 20%). The budget includes some funding for capital projects and an increase to salary scales. The employer contribution to UCRP (UC Retirement Program) will increase; employee contribution will not change.

The Regents approved the Senate's minor revisions to Policy 4400 on diversity statements. Regent John Pérez announced his resignation from the Board of Regents (after serving for 10 years) and Governor Newsom appointed Bob Myers of Santa Monica to fill the seat. Myers was general manager of the Golden State Warriors basketball team and is currently an NBA analyst on ESPN. Former UC Health Executive Vice President Carrie Byington joined the Regents to present a post-pandemic "after action" report[6] describing and assessing the UC systemwide response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

There have been a few reports released recently on campus climate, including one from 21st Century Policing Solutions, that investigate responses to recent campus protests. The report described a highly chaotic response that was attributed to lack of preparedness and lack of communication. The Regents expressed dissatisfaction that neither students nor faculty have been sanctioned and are recommending that processes be reviewed. Vice Chair Palazoglu noted that the Academic Senate has advisory, not statutory, authority over faculty discipline.

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[66] https://regents.universityofcalifornia.edu/regmeet/nov24/b1.pdf

UC Administration
The UC's MOP loan ("mortgage origination program") is under pressure due to high interest rates over the years, and some campuses are out of money for new loans. Additional funding should be forthcoming.

As noted at the last meeting, several senior leadership searches are underway, including for the UC president. A 13-member academic advisory committee (all Senate members) chaired by Academic Senate Chair Steven Cheung has reviewed the job criteria and assessment methodology. UC Riverside's Provost and Executive Vice President Liz Watkins is chairing the search committee for a new Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs and Academic Programs. Two members of UCIE (Universitywide Committee on International Education) are participating in the search for a new Director for UC's Education Abroad Program. The UCSB chancellor search committee has been formed and the UC Riverside search committee formation is in progress.

Workgroups
The APC Workgroup on Systemwide Academic Calendar is evaluating the pros and cons of switching to a consistent systemwide calendar. There will be significant resource investment required for such a big change. UCORP can provide input regarding impacts to research.

Another workgroup is reviewing APM 015 (Code of Conduct) and 016 (Conduct and the Administration of Discipline) as required by the California budget act. There was also some confusion last year about revisions to 016 regarding simultaneous academic misconduct investigations and personnel actions. Substantial revisions to the APM would require review by the Regents, but initial review indicates that that won't be required.

A Faculty AI Workgroup has been convened to assess the current state of AI integration into instruction, research, and other Senate-related matters. The group will conduct a UC-wide faculty survey of attitudes and usage.

Results from the 4th UC Faculty and Instructor Experience Survey are being analyzed.

The APC Workgroup on the Future of Doctoral Education at UC is in its final review phase and will be distributed soon.

VI. Next Steps

Members read the MRU reports, draft initial comments and questions for directors, and send them to the review group lead. MRU reports can be found on the MRU Reviews 2024-25 Box folder: https://ucop.box.com/s/lyciphf95ohrtscjmtrzanj232euu7u3.

Meeting adjourned: 12:35pm
Meeting notes drafted by: Joanne Miller, UCORP analyst
Attest: Susanne B Nicholas, UCORP Chair

Meeting participants:
Susanne Nicholas (Chair, UCLA), James Weatherall (Vice Chair, UC Irvine), Abby Dernburg (UC Berkeley), David Rocke (UC Davis), Dennis Lettenmaier (UCLA), Tao Ye (UC Merced), Rachel Wu (UC Riverside), Elina Zuniga (UC San Diego), Bin Liu (UC San Francisco), Stephanie Hom (UC Santa Barbara), Nirvikar Singh (UC Santa Cruz), Academic Council Chair), Ahmet Palazoglu (Academic Council Vice Chair), Joanne Miller (Committee Analyst), Theresa Maldonado (Vice President for Research and Innovation), Kathleen Erwin (Executive Director, Research Grants Program Office), Anna Ward (Director, UC Research Initiatives), Lourdes DeMattos (Director, Research Policy Analysis and Coordination), Dragana Alexander (Research Policy Manager, UCOP), Timothy Miller (Research Policy Manager, UCOP), Cynthia Schumann (guest, UC Davis)