

UNIVERSITY COMMITTEE ON RESEARCH POLICY
Monday, December 10, 2018

Meeting Minutes**1. Chair's announcements, updates, approval of minutes***Announcements & General Information*

- *ANR Draft Report:* Members of the Academic Senate sent comments on the draft recommendations from the ANR Advisory Committee. Comments emphasized integrating ANR into the UC community.
- *Proposed Revised Vehicle policy response:* UCORP members suggested sending the proposed policy revisions to each of the ITS Directors to be sure it was brought to their attention and ask whether UCORP's comments are in line with their thinking.
- *Laboratory Fees Research Program:* UCORP's feedback on the proposed LFRP thematic areas was sent to Director Kathleen Erwin for consideration. In addition to suggestions on the topics, UCORP suggested developing metrics to assess the success of the program and possibly offering smaller awards for pilot projects. Related to the labs, UCORP members were interested in the Office of the National Laboratories' "Ambassador Speakers" program and asked for more information on how to contact the speakers.
- *Academic Council update:*
 - After unhealthy air from the fires burning in Northern California caused some campuses to close, UC officials are discussing the need for a systemwide policy or other type of guidance to describe under what circumstances a campus would shut down or remain open.
 - A meeting about faculty salary equity studies took place at UCOP to review the campus surveys of the past 5-6 years and propose a path forward.
 - Funding will be provided for student housing.
 - The UC Librarians continue their license negotiations with Elsevier.
 - There has been a proposal to investigate faculty morale in the health sciences.
 - The US Department of Education has proposed more changes to rules for sexual harassment claims in higher education.
- *Tiger teams:* The two tiger teams investigating foreign interference and academic espionage will soon release reports. The university is primarily interested in increasing awareness and sensitivity to the issue, and emphasizing the importance of proper disclosure. There will be recommendations and guidelines for faculty forthcoming.

2. Consultation with the Office of the President – Division of Agriculture and Natural Resources (ANR)

Glenda Humiston, Vice President for Agriculture and Natural Resources (ANR)

UC Division of Agriculture and Natural Resources Vice President Glenda Humiston joined the meeting via video and expressed interest in increased interactions between ANR leadership and UCORP. VP Humiston provided a brief update on ANR and examples of partnerships with UC campuses, including working with UCSF's Global Health program on integrated pest management efforts and with the School of Engineering at UC Merced. Humiston suggested that UCORP members join the monthly ANR newsclips mailing list, which includes ANR news stories, upcoming events, and more.

Recently, ANR has been involved in fire and forest-related efforts. There have been workshops for homeowners on how to reduce fire risk and how to respond to crises. ANR has helped displaced residents with their pets and livestock, which are generally not welcome in evacuation centers or temporary housing. Humiston mentioned forestry and biomass research, such as finding uses for the biomass that is not just burning for electricity. The Wood Products Institute at UC Berkeley and other programs have been mandated and/or funded by the State government, and often include partnering with other educational institutions, government agencies, and non-profits.

An upcoming State economic summit will focus on water management and systems in urban areas and farmland, including improving the quality of drinking water in rural communities. There is also work on bringing broadband internet access to wide ranging area.

UC Santa Cruz will soon have its first cooperative specialist on campus who will focus on organic production. Work in the area of agriculture technology innovation is centered in Salinas and involves UCSC, CSU Monterey Bay, and other partners.

The ANR budget was cut by \$5 million last year, which impacted faculty positions, statewide programs, researcher subsidies, and the competitive grant program. There are about half the number of faculty positions now compared to 20 years ago. The publishing department and storage warehouse were also eliminated in the cuts. In order to develop new sources of funding, ANR has started a development office and will be implementing more service fees.

The draft report of the President's UC ANR Advisory Committee recommends that ANR keep its base of operations at UCOP, and not move to a campus. The report focused on how relationships between UC locations and ANR could be fostered and expanded. A primary recommendation was for a new governing council that would have broad representation. VP Humiston expressed interest in including a UCORP representative on the new Advisory Council.

VP Humiston suggested that ANR Associate Vice President Dr. Wendy Powers might be the appropriate person to join UCORP meetings more frequently throughout the academic year. Dr. Powers is responsible for ANR academic programs at the statewide level and is chair of the ANR Program Council. She is the Director of the Research and Extension Center System and Associate Director of the statewide UC Cooperative Extension (UCCE) and the Agricultural Experiment Station (AES). More interactions could be useful in addressing areas such as the academic status of Cooperative Extension researchers and funding for endowed chairs. Another suggestion for increasing interactions was to invite ANR specialists on the campuses to join local COR. UCORP members mentioned that webinars or an "ambassador speaker" program (like the one being piloted by the Office of the National Laboratories) might be useful for exposing more UC researchers to the work of ANR. Webinar broadcasts may also be an efficient way to reach more people.

3. ANR Discussion Next Steps

UCORP would like to see ANR use the opportunity presented by the creation of a new governing council to add more mechanisms to increase the unit's visibility, engagement, partnership with faculty and students on the campuses.

ANR could be brought in as a partner in the Lab Fees Research Program competition, or other multi-campus efforts. A suggestion was made for UCOP to issue an RFP for pilot programs that would act to bring groups together. ANR holds data that many faculty would like to be able to access.

Potential actions for UCORP include drafting a letter to Academic Council Chair May to convey UCORP's thoughts about pilot funding for collaborations and increased interactions between UC faculty and ANR projects. UCORP will ask for a roster of ANR scientific and academic personnel on the campuses.

4. Academic Senate Leadership Update

Academic Council Chair Robert May and Vice Chair Kum-Kum Bhavnani joined the meeting to provide an overview of current activities of the Senate.

Tiger-team reports: Draft reports with recommendations for addressing potential academic espionage and theft of intellectual property associated with UC's international relationships are being reviewed by select individuals and UC constituencies. NIH and other funders are pressuring the university, but the locus of responsibility is not totally clear. The main issue now is proper disclosure on research funding applications.

Academic researchers will likely be unionizing and will engage in bargaining with the university soon. Whether GSRs will unionize is not yet clear.

Academic freedom for non-faculty academic appointees: Chair May and UCSC Chancellor Blumenthal will co-chair a committee to work on developing a policy that ensures protections for non-senate academic appointees that would be akin to academic freedom. Chair May suggested reading Section 010 of the Academic Personnel Manual ([APM 010](#)), especially 2nd paragraph, for a better understanding of how academic freedom is codified at UC, and how it applies to faculty in their work.

ANR Draft Report: The ANR Draft Report calls for changes in governance, specifically the establishment of a governing council with broad representation. The Academic Senate would like more transparency about how the ANR budget is allocated, why UC supports 4-H programs, and exactly how much research goes on at ANR sites. UCPB (the Academic Senate Committee on Planning and Budget) has a new ANR Task Force that monitors ANR's policies and strategic objectives. The Task Force will look into issues such as whether researchers who work on related areas can get support from ANR. UCORP told Chair May that the committee feels that there is room for more integration and collaboration between UC and ANR.

Elsevier negotiations: There have been communications and town hall meetings on each campus. In case of a loss of availability of Elsevier materials, the libraries have arranged for other ways to provide access to publications in individual cases for those who need it.

UC Budget: UC's budget request to the State will ask that temporary funding from the past few years be made permanent. The requested 11% increase includes funding for faculty salaries to eliminate the faculty salary gap.

Guidance for campus closures: Chair May talked briefly about the discussions on developing universitywide standards for campus closures due to unhealthful air, disasters, etc. While the guidelines would be systemwide, there would be flexibility for campuses.

5. MRU Reviews

Chair Andrew Baird introduced the Institute for Nuclear and Particle Astrophysics and Cosmology (INPAC) with a summary of the information provided in the MRU's Five-Year Report.

Vice Chair Nasrin Rahimieh provided some information on the UC Humanities Research Institute, which is based at UC Irvine. It was reviewed at UCI a couple of years ago and received rave reviews.

The Institute receives UC funding via the MRPI, and leverages that into much more. An endowment is currently in development.

UCORP will look at support provided to the MRUs from UCOP, the involvement of graduate students, and potential opportunities for changes in leadership, governance, and structure.

6. Consultation with the Office of the President – Office of Research and Graduate Studies (ORGS)

Arthur Ellis, Vice President for Research and Graduate Studies

Bart Aoki, Executive Director, Research Grants Program Office

Kathleen Erwin, Director, UC Research Initiatives

Wendy Streitz, Executive Director, RPAC

Janna Tom, Director, RPAC

Lourdes DeMattos, Associate Director, RPAC (via video)

1. NAGPRA update

UCOP is populating the Native American Advisory Group, which will be the standing committee that oversees all Native American-related issues. The intention is for that Group to advise on Native American representation on the shorter-term Work Group that will be convening to revise UC policy on Native American remains and repatriation. Due to state and federal legislation, the current policy needs to be revised by the end of 2019.

2. NSF sexual harassment term and condition

NSF has implemented a new term and condition that requires awardee organizations to notify NSF of any findings/determinations of sexual harassment, other forms of harassment, or sexual assault regarding an NSF funded PI or co-PI. Guidance for UC campuses has been drafted and is currently being reviewed by Title IX officers. Meanwhile, NSF has FAQs and more information on its website.

3. Tiger Teams' Report update

Reports from the two "tiger teams" are being circulated. Their recommendations attempt to balance the university's need to protect itself while preserving the principles of academic freedom for speech and association. NIH will also release findings and recommendations. There will be communication across UC via letters from campus leadership and town hall meetings.

UCORP members were concerned about chilling effects and xenophobia that might result from the reports. Recommendations should include talking with colleagues and students to allay concerns. As previously mentioned, the biggest issue is disclosure. UC is still trying to get more clarity from governmental funding agencies.

4. MRPI awards

Director Kathleen Erwin reported that 179 proposals were received for the 2019 Multicampus Research Program Initiative (MRPI) awards. \$9 million over two years was awarded to sixteen proposals. Each awardee is asked for an annual progress report that includes statistics such as students, publications, and intellectual property. Evaluation metrics for the program include how funding was leveraged. A two-page [program information sheet](#) is available on the MRPI website.

UCHRI, one of the MRUs that UCORP is reviewing this year, was awarded funding via MRPI. Director Erwin briefly described the conversion of the MRU program from designated funding to competition, which was intended to open the limited remaining funding to new collaborations.

There are a couple of MRUs with designated funding due to contractual agreements or maintenance of facilities. UC MEXUS and the UC Observatories have ongoing funding via the Office of the President.

5. LFRP update

The final themes will be determined by the end of the year and workshops will be planned on the campuses with the help of the Vice Chancellors for Research. The RFP should be ready in April, with letters of intent due in May/June, and proposals in August. Twenty-one proposals were received for this year's in-residence graduate student fellowships, with equal numbers for LANL and LLNL. Four fellowships were funded to graduate students from Irvine, San Diego, Berkeley and Los Angeles; two to each lab. The addition of these four makes 10 total current fellows. The graduate fellowship will be offered again with next year's Collaborative Research and Training (CRT) competition.

6. Valley Fever research RFP update

The RFP for [Valley Fever research](#) was released on Dec. 5 and sent to all campuses. There is \$3 million in funding available from the state due to the efforts primarily of legislators from the Kern County and Bakersfield areas. Proposals due January 10. UC is also working on securing federal matching funding.

7. Knowledge Transfer Office to RGS

RPAC Director Janna Tom informed the committee that the new Knowledge Transfer Office, the functions of which have been with the Office of Innovation and Entrepreneurship since its inception a few years ago, will move to the Office of Research and Graduate Studies under Academic Affairs. Formerly known as the Office of Tech Transfer, the department serves campuses that are not able to provide all functions for technology commercialization such as royalties, patent tracking, collections, and statistical reporting for various compliance needs. There is also a patent prosecution function, and, with the move to ORGS, the office will resurrect the licensing and equity management function. An advisory committee to oversee the Office and provide closer engagement with the campus will be re-established.

8. Emerging Technologies - Export Control Changes

The federal government is looking for guidance on what emerging technologies should be included on the list for export control. The Export Control Officers on each campus have been asked by UCOP's Office of Ethics, Compliance and Audit Services (ECAS) to comment and provide input from the scientific community. If UCORP members have input on the list provided in the agenda background, they should send comments to their campus [Export Control Officer](#) or Vice Chancellor for Research.

7. Executive session – Action Items

1. UCORP members will fill out and return the Publication Support Services Survey from UCSD.
2. MRU chart from ORGS – UCORP will ask that two additional columns be added to the chart to show accountability. (1. Accountability/oversight/responsibility and 2. Whether the Academic Senate is involved.)

Meeting adjourned: 3:50pm

Meeting minutes prepared by: Joanne Miller, UCORP analyst

Attest: Andrew Baird, UCORP Chair

Members attending in person: Andrew Baird (Chair, SD), Nasrin Rahimieh (Vice Chair, I), Irina Conboy (B), David Woodruff (D – alternate), Jeffrey Barrett (I), KK Ramakrishnan (R), Stuart Gansky (SF), Harry Nelson (SB), Jarmila Pittermann (SC), Robert May (Academic Senate Chair), Kum-Kum Bhavnani (Academic Senate Vice Chair)

Members participating remotely: Michael Scheibner (M), Brian Eliceiri (SD), Harry Nelson (SB)

Consultants, guests, and staff: Glenda Humiston (UCOP, via video) Arthur Ellis (UCOP), Bart Aoki (UCOP), Wendy Streitz (UCOP), Kathleen Erwin (UCOP), Lourdes DeMattos (UCOP, via video), Janna Tom (UCOP), Ramesh Balasubramaniam (UCM, CCGA liaison for the INPAC Review, via video), Gina Dent (UCSC, CCGA liaison for the UCHRI Review, via video), Joanne Miller (Committee Analyst)