

UNIVERSITY COMMITTEE ON RESEARCH POLICY

Monday, December 12, 2022

Meeting Minutes

I. Chair's Report, approval of meeting minutes*Cynthia Schumann, UCORP Chair*

Chair Schumann reviewed the agenda and introduced the committee's graduate student member, who was participating for the first time. Schumann noted that the last Academic Council and Assembly meetings have been dominated by discussions of the strike and its impact on faculty.

Chair Schumann asked that committee members review the Systemwide Review Items (see: <http://senate.universityofcalifornia.edu/under-review/>) for discussion at the January UCORP meeting.

The meeting minutes from November 14th will be approved via email or in January.

II. Consultation with the Office of the President – Office of Research and Innovation*Theresa Maldonado, Vice President for Research and Innovation**Scott Brandt, Associate Vice President for Research and Innovation**Kathleen Erwin, Executive Director, Research Grants Program Office**Lourdes DeMattos, Assistant Director, Research Policy Analysis and Coordination**Anna Ward, Program Officer, Research Grants Program Office*

- *Vice President for Research & Innovation*

Vice President for Research and Innovation Theresa Maldonado reported that the climate resilience RFP will be released soon. It is being widely reviewed, and the Regents have been updated on progress every two weeks.

Work on Innovation transfer projects is ongoing in Maldonado's office. AVP Scott Brandt continues to work on the hydrogen hub initiative.

The Vice Chancellors for Research have been meeting twice a week to talk about the strike and potential impacts on the research enterprise. The group receives briefings from UC legal, academic affairs, and others. There will be implications for federal awards, and guidance about that is under development. Considerations include whether and how to move funds from federal grants, certification of effort, agency oversight, and increased administrative burden.

- *UC Research Initiatives*

UCORP talked with VP Maldonado and Program Officer Anna Ward about the upcoming MRU reviews and the requirements for the review committees' reports. There is some flexibility in the format of the reports, depending on the extent of the recommendations. The MRU directors have always appreciated the feedback provided by the Academic Senate.

UCORP will provide questions for the MRU directors in advance of the February 13th meeting.

The group talked about the state of MRUs at UC and whether there was potential for change. Per the "Compendium," MRUs are supposed to be reviewed every five years and intended to sunset after 15 years. That has not been the case, and no new MRUs have been established. Instead, UC offers the MRPI short-term funding competition for multicampus groups every two years. But there may be other, longer-term

multicampus networks that could benefit from systemwide recognition. For example, there are over 200 centers and institutes at UC related to climate. UCOP can facilitate working across communities and is exploring options for fundraising – a big need of the UC Observatories – without impeding campus efforts. Maldonado noted that ITS, one of the MRUs being reviewed this year, is essentially a network of four campus ORUs. It receives state funding directly, though, thanks to its federated status.

UCOP would like UCORP's sign-off on the 2021-22 MRU annual reviews.

MRPI update: The Multicampus Research Programs and Initiatives is a systemwide competition held every two years. This year's review was just completed and out of the 96 proposals reviewed, 21 were awarded a total of \$16.4m. A press release will come out in January.

III. Specific questions for Senate Leadership About the Strike

UCORP members talked about specific concerns of research faculty around the ongoing GSR and TA strike. Faculty are looking for guidance from their campus or systemwide. There is immediate concern about reporting for grants. Members also discussed ideas for a more sustainable way to keep GSRs engaged and employed as part of sponsored research going forward. Many grants support not only pay salaries, but also indirect costs and tuition reimbursements.

Faculty are very concerned about the future of research funding at the university, especially for graduate student support.

UCORP's graduate student representative said that the strikers were informed prior to the strike about how graduate student funding works and about the university's budget.

IV. Academic Senate Leadership Update

Susan Cochran, Academic Council Chair

James Steintrager, Academic Council Vice Chair

The discussion with the Academic Senate Chair and Vice Chair focused on the strike. Issues included: paying graduate students, where additional funding might come from, distinctions between work, academic work, stipends and wages, and long term repercussions to the research enterprise and graduate student ecosystem.

Members were also concerned about each campus being left to find its own solution, both in the short term and long run. Administrators and Senate chairs are talking across campuses, but there is a feeling of insufficient communication to faculty.

V. Round Robin of Reports from the Campuses

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

UCD: The local committee has been discussing the strike. It is working on editing the annual call for faculty grant proposals and talking with the UCD office of research regarding funding of core facilities. The campus has delayed implementation of the Oracle financial system by six months, until January 2024.

UCI: The local committee finished its allocation of faculty grant funding, which is determined by formula. The committee was asked to provide feedback regarding Open Educational Resources (OER).

UCLA: The COR was asked by the VC-R to review a report relating to research collaborations with colleagues and graduate students from China. The committee is developing a fact-finding process template for initial use with the Office of Contracts and Grants that can then be reused for other offices.

Merced: COR has been working on calls for faculty research and instrumentation grants, which will be released in a few weeks. There has been much discussion about the strike, including with the VC-R. The Oracle financial system continues to be a struggle. It seems to be working, but still needs better alignment with interacting systems. The controller has experience in transitions to Oracle at other universities and said that it will take three to four years for a full transition.

UCR: COR is discussing faculty research grant amounts and whether (and how) to apply a rubric to the criteria.

UCSD: COR engaged in online discussions on sponsored research issues related to the strike.

UCSF: UCSF's committee continues to talk about its faculty lecture series and how it can be used to best represent campus constituencies. The committee is discussing priorities for coming year, the strike, and how to deal with funding. The committees on Diversity and Graduate Education joined COR in a letter to administration the administration that described the state of faculty morale, recruitment and retention.

UCSB: COR topics have including faculty research grants, the strike, and implications of the upcoming transition to the Oracle financial system.

UCSC: Most committee discussions have been about the strike, which has caused interruptions of other services on the campus, such as food service and deliveries. The UCSC VC-R wants to partner with COR to figure out how to proceed in the coming months.

VI. MRU Review Groups Discussions

Committee members split into two breakout rooms to discuss next steps for the MRU reviews. Members were assigned sections and asked to read the MRU reports and write up their comments, noting the strengths and weaknesses for their sections. In January, the groups will draft questions for the MRU directors to be sent out prior to meeting with the directors in February.

Meeting adjourned at 2pm

Meeting minutes drafted by: Joanne Miller, UCORP committee analyst

Attest: Cynthia Schumann, UCORP Chair