

UNIVERSITY COMMITTEE ON RESEARCH POLICY

Monday, February 11, 2019

Meeting Minutes**1. Chair's announcements, approval of minutes**

Meeting minutes from December 9, 2019 and January 13, 2020 were approved.

Chair Andrew Baird updated the committee on a few items:

- The plan for the MRU reviews is to complete them in the next month and be able to move on to other things.
- A VP for Research & Innovation will be named soon.
- The search for a new UC President continues, with town hall discussions with Regents taking place on campuses. At UCSD, faculty started a petition to include climate change on the criteria for the new President.
- In the past few years the Academic Council Special Committee on Laboratory Issues (ACSCOLI) has focused on the renewal of the LANL management and operation (M&O) contract. Now that that is settled, the committee is reviewing the use of the management fees by UC. ACSCOLI had a presentation from the Director of the Engineering Institute at LANL, which is a collaboration between UCSD Jacobs School of Engineering and the lab. The national labs are in an active recruitment phase as many in the workforce reach retirement age.
- Academic Planning Council (APC) is an advisory committee chaired by Provost Michael Brown. Three interesting topics were discussed at the last APC meeting:
 - 1) UC's State Government Relations (SGR) Associate Director for Legislative Affairs Jason Murphy talked about coordinating UC responses to bills and draft legislation. He expressed interest in expanding the networks of experts within UC that are called upon to provide input and advice.
 - 2) Academic Council Vice Chair Mary Gauvain gave a presentation on the importance of keeping climate change at the forefront of UC's research efforts, and talked about the effects of the crisis on mental health.
 - 3) The Elsevier situation has brought increased attention to funding in the traditional publishing model and how the system might work in the future. There are UC alternatives to traditional publications but using them in the current academic structure means disrupting the current models that are highly interconnected with processes like promotion and tenure.
- An Interim Working Group on Climate Change will develop a plan for a systemwide Task Force on Climate Change, including formulating a charge and suggesting members.

UCSF representative Stuart Gansky informed the committee that faculty at UCSF are investigating the use of an Electronic Lab Notes system. The concept is relevant to UCORP's discussions of electronic records and data archiving. UCSF is facing space constraints and needs to replace paper records with an electronic archiving solution.

2. MRU Review: UC Observatories

- *Claire Max, Director, UC Observatories, Professor of Astronomy and Astrophysics at UC Santa Cruz*
- *Matthew Shetrone, Deputy Director, UC Observatories*
- *Anna Korossy-Eredia, Associate Director for Business and Finance, UC Observatories*

Leaders from the UC Observatories joined the meeting as part of the UCO five-year review process. Director Claire Max gave a presentation on the work of UCO, which is housed at Lick Observatory on Mount Hamilton, just east of San Jose. The observatory is wholly owned by UC. The land was given in an act of Congress in 1888. Lick has five active telescopes and two historic telescopes. Twenty or so UC employees – telescope operators, support staff – live at the observatory site. Director Max talked about the process for applying for telescope time, the public programs, and the support that Lick provides for Keck programs. The staff selects who gets telescope time based on the scientific merit of the applications. UC researchers are not charged; those coming from outside UC pay to cover costs.

The Keck Observatory is in Hawaii and is run as a non-profit organization by UC and CalTech. The Keck telescope is 10 meters, and sits at 14,000 feet. Based on established metrics, it is the most productive telescope in the world, with the highest scientific impact of ground-based optical-infrared telescopes.

The Thirty Meter Telescope is a collaboration of international partners. It is not built yet, and due to cultural and political concerns it may be built in the Canary Islands rather than Hawaii as originally planned. When completed, the TMT will have nine times the light-collecting power of the Keck telescope.

The group talked about the need for more community outreach, and the directors said that more collaborations are planned with Bay Area science centers. The location of the telescope site at the top of a very long and winding road makes it a challenge to bring people there, so the staff is pursuing ways to “bring Lick down the mountain.” Each campus has a remote observing room for researchers.

The group asked about other university involvement with large telescopes. There are large telescopes owned by universities, but the systemwide approach is rare.

The UCO directors answered questions and clarified information about budget and salary, governance, public service, data archives and pipelines, and other details. They highlighted the unmet need to cover regular cost of living increases for staff. They estimate that funding is about \$1.5m behind where it should be, and that the recent implementation of composite benefit rates is having a negative impact as Lick employees are employees of UC Santa Cruz.

In the end, the directors said that the strength of the observatories had catapulted UC into premier astronomy research and elevated UC’s reputation in the field.

The directors noted that past interactions with Research Vice Presidents have been helpful and look forward to continued support from the new Research VP.

3. MRU Review: Bioengineering Institute of California

- *Scott Simon, Professor of Biomedical Engineering, UC Davis, BIC Director*
- *Shu Chien, Professor of Medicine and Bioengineering, UCSD, Former BIC Director (via video)*
- *Song Li, Professor of Bioengineering, UCLA, BIC Director-Elect (via video)*

The past, present, and future directors of the Bioengineering Institute of California joined the meeting as part of the MRU’s five-year review. Director Scott Simon said that the interdisciplinary field of biomedical engineering has really taken off. There has been much growth in bioengineering research at UC, with industry engaged and interested in preparing the next generation workforce.

Simon talked about the main work of the Institute, which is an annual symposium, and provided more details about the goals, governance and budget. Through the symposium, the BIC engages junior faculty and post-docs, and fosters collective excellence. Attendees are passionate about the

gatherings. He said that the MRU designation offers prestige, and believes that uniting bioengineering scholars at UC elevates the research enterprise.

The group had questions about strategic planning, the role of the advisory committee, and increasing the institute's impact.

4. Issues Under Systemwide Review

- Report of the Academic Council's Standardized Testing Task Force (STTF) (Comments due March 23, 2020)

UCORP will discuss the report and whether to comment at its March meeting.

- BOARS Recommendation to Eliminate the ACT Writing and SAT Essay Requirement (Comments due March 23, 2020)

UCORP will not comment.

- Working Group on Comprehensive Access Chair's Report of Findings and Recommendations, with Responses from Working Group Members and UC Legal (Comments due February 19, 2020)

Action: UCORP will send a letter re-affirming the committee's letter from last year in response to the proposed UCSF/Dignity Health affiliation (unanimous agreement).

- UC Washington Center Review (Comments due February 19, 2020)

UCORP discussed the UCDC review and proposed that there be more space for UC activities and more representation in research. The center provides an opportunity for conducting and disseminating research, as well as work in policy research. It could also be a resource hub for a UC expertise network.

Action: UCORP will send comments reflecting the points raised in discussion.

5. Executive Session – MRU follow-up

No notes were taken during executive session.

Meeting adjourned: 4:05

Meeting minutes drafted by: Joanne Miller, UCORP Analyst

Attest: Andrew Baird, UCORP Chair

Meeting participants:

Andrew Baird (Chair), Richard Desjardins (Vice Chair), Irina Conboy (Berkeley), Karen Bales (Davis), Lee Bardwell (Irvine), Kathrin Plath (Los Angeles), Michael Scheibner (Merced, via video), Kelly Jeong (Riverside), Tannishtha Reya (San Diego), Stuart Gansky (San Francisco), Liming Zhang (Santa Barbara), Paul Roth (Santa Cruz), Jeanmarie Gonzalez (Graduate Student Representative, UCSF) Claire Max (Director, UC Observatories, Professor of Astronomy and Astrophysics at UC Santa Cruz), Matthew Shetrone (Deputy Director, UC Observatories), Anna Korossy-Eredia (Associate Director for Business and Finance, UC Observatories), Scott Simon (Professor of Biomedical Engineering, UC Davis, BIC Director), Shu Chien (Professor of Medicine and Bioengineering, UCSD Former BIC Director, via video), Song Li (Professor of Bioengineering, UCLA, BIC Director-Elect, via video), Joanne Miller (Committee Analyst)