

UNIVERSITY COMMITTEE ON RESEARCH POLICY
Monday, May 13, 2019

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

Andrew Baird, UCORP Chair

- *UCSF/Dignity Health Proposed Affiliation*

In opening remarks, Chair Andrew Baird said that the proposed affiliation between UCSF and Dignity Health has raised concerns among faculty about the university partnering with a religious institution and lack of detail about the scope of the affiliation. While the UCSF Academic Senate is in support of the affiliation, there are many faculty members and others in the UCSF community that do not support it.

UCORP discussed whether to send a comment letter to Academic Chair Robert May, who is soliciting faculty input. Overall, the committee felt that:

- UC should stand by its mission and values.
- UCORP backs the April 2, 2019, Interim Report of the UC Academic Senate UC Non-Discrimination in Healthcare Task Force.
- Before going forward with the affiliation there should be a clear description of terms and parameters.

Action: Chair Baird will draft a letter conveying UCORP's opinions to Chair May. The draft will be circulated to committee members to review before sending.

2. UC's Climate Change Collaborations

Guests:

- *Ben Houlton, Professor, UC Davis, Director of the Muir Institute and interim co-chair of the California Collaborative for Climate Change Solutions*
- *V. "Ram" Ramanathan, Professor, UCSD Scripps Institution of Oceanography, and interim co-chair of the California Collaborative for Climate Change Solutions*
- *Roger Bales, Professor, UC Merced, Director of the UC Water Security and Sustainability Research Initiative, and Director of the Sierra Nevada Research Institute (SNRI)*
- *David Phillips, Associate Vice President for Energy and Sustainability, UCOP*

- ***California Collaborative for Climate Change Solutions (C4S)***

The co-chairs of the California Collaborative for Climate Change Solutions (C4S) – both of whom are UC faculty members – joined the meeting to discuss the work of the collaboration, which was founded at UC but has expanded to institutions throughout the state. Its mission is to “accelerate the translation of research findings into practical climate solutions, to test innovative technologies through high-impact pilot projects, and to rapidly scale promising solutions to the national and global level.” UC Davis Professor Ben Houlton, interim co-chair of C4S, said that climate change is at a critical point and that cooperation will be key to avoiding environmental disaster. He talked about a roadmap for rapid de-carbonization that would make the Paris agreement a reality. California has been a world leader and has already met its 2020 targets for reducing greenhouse gas emissions. The State's success has shown that growth can happen even in a cap-and-trade market. Although

California can serve as an example for the world in climate policy and how to achieve reductions, the new emissions targets will require bigger cuts.

About half of carbon emissions in California comes from vehicles, while the rest is from industry, electricity, agriculture and other sources. Houlton mentioned the work of UC's Division of Agriculture and Natural Resources (ANR) in producing climate change studies and working directly with farmers and agricultural workers. Warming temperature is a specific concern for farmers in the Central Valley, where temperature rise will mean that many of the current crops will not be viable.

The C4S collaboration began with the [Bending the Curve Report](#) from scholars at the University of California. UC law school faculty became involved in the legal/policy perspective, and the UC group reached out to the CSUs, CalTech, USC and other California institutions. An initial meeting took place at UCSD on March 1, 2018, with three other meetings in 2018 that focused on stakeholder engagement, governance, projects, and funding.

The goals are to conduct 6-8 short-term (two-year) demonstration projects per year and establish a competitive grants program. The collaborative envisions an annual budget of \$250million for the demonstration projects, and a central program office with a director and support staff. All projects and accounting will be transparent and open, using open data and open source technology whenever possible. Commercialization and scaling will be undertaken in partnership with the private sector and national organizations. C4S will be managed by a governing board of 13 members from research institutions, private foundations, and government, which will appoint the Executive Director.

The next steps for C4S are to establish a formal MOU, convene a scoping committee, determine how to institutionalize the organization within UC, and expand to other partners.

- ***Bending the Curve: Climate Change Solutions Educational Project***

A hybrid course has been developed based on the Bending the Curve Report. Professor Ram Ramanathan is the PI and lead instructor of this multifaceted "education project" that was developed at UC for use worldwide. More information at: <https://bendingthecurve.ucsd.edu>.

- ***UC's Carbon Neutrality Initiative and Global Climate Leadership Council***

The idea for [UC's Carbon Neutrality Initiative](#) grew out of a student campaign that began in the early 2000s that focused on getting UC to adopt carbon neutrality goals. The current goal is for all UC campuses to be carbon neutral by 2025. Strategies include planning for smart growth that incorporates energy efficiency and conservation, replacement of high-carbon energy sources with low-carbon sources, and using cap-and-trade offsets and other off-campus actions to reduce emissions.

The [UC Global Climate Leadership Council](#) was formed in 2014 to advise on UC's carbon neutrality and sustainability goals. UC is an electricity service provider that uses solar and wind energy sources. Offsets will still be needed to achieve full neutrality, but the idea is to connect the work back to UC's research and public service mission.

UC Merced Professor Roger Bales described a proposed resolution for UC faculty. The resolution, which is still in draft form, asks that:

- Campus leadership acknowledge that achieving carbon neutrality is core to UC's mission and prioritize activities to assure that the 2025 carbon neutrality goal is met.

- Faculty at all levels get engaged to help address the challenge of climate change. Task forces and/or working groups should be convened on each campus to engage and support carbon-neutrality and mitigate climate change.
- UC develop mechanisms to address, describe, and communicate the urgency of climate change and the importance of sustainability.

Once finalized and approved by the Academic Council, a resolution would be broadly disseminated to faculty colleagues and administrative leadership.

Discussion included whether UC was being ambitious *enough*, but varying degrees of enthusiasm from campus leaders needs to be taken into account. UCORP noted that UC serves as a laboratory for innovation and as a model to the rest of the world, and agreed that the committee should write a letter in support of the Carbon Neutrality Initiative and Climate Leadership Council. The letter could be circulated to other systemwide committees for additional support.

Professor Houlton said that a related concern is around merit and promotion for faculty doing work in climate change. Practical solutions that make a difference in the world don't always get rewarded at the departmental level.

Action: Chair Baird will draft a letter to send to committee members and potentially circulated to other committees.

3. New and Ongoing Business

a. Composite Benefit Rates

Andrew Baird, UCORP Chair

UCORP's letter about concerns with the implementation of the Composite Benefit Rate was sent to the Academic Council. It was supported by a letter from the University Committee on Faculty Welfare and [sent to President Napolitano](#) with an endorsement for UCORP's recommendation that UCOP adopt a formal mitigation plan to redress the research funding shortfall of faculty affected by the implementation of new Composite Benefit Rates.

Local Vice Chancellors of Research are aware of the problem and making efforts to help faculty.

b. Self-Supporting Programs

Richard Desjardins (UCLA)

Jeffrey Barrett (UCI)

Since the February meeting, UCORP members Desjardins and Barrett conducted an exploration into the operations of Self-Supporting Programs. Some campuses have more of these than others. The question of SSPs came up in relation to use of funds, and whether these programs support the mission of UC. UCORP members want to know if resources such as space and faculty time are being used for SSPs in place of State-funded UC work.

UCORP wants to understand more about these programs and whether they are having an impact on the conducting of research within the university. SSPs are being discussed by other systemwide committees; the topic will remain on the UCORP agenda for next year.

4. 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

Emily Rader, ORGS Portfolio/Strategies Manager

Lourdes DeMattos, Associate Director, Research Policy Analysis and Coordination

- *UC Knowledge Transfer Advisory Committee*

VP Ellis reported that the first meeting of the Knowledge Transfer Advisory Committee was held on April 30. The group consists of members from each campus and the Academic Senate. Interim RPAC Executive Director Janna Tom is staffing the committee. Members had questions about the role of the Office of the President versus the campuses. OP is responsible for reporting to the Regents and provides a royalty function for some campuses.

- *Tobacco funding (update to Regents' list)*

Per Regents policy, the list of tobacco and tobacco-supported entities requires periodic review. Director DeMattos provided the new list, which includes e-cigarette companies.

- *Cannabis workshop on May 30*

UCORP members received an invitation to the systemwide UC Cannabis Research Workshop at UCSD on May 30.

- *Valley Fever Research Funding update*

Two proposals were selected to receive funding for Valley Fever research. Plans are underway for a systemwide summit at UC Merced that is anticipated to include federal government representatives.

- *Laboratory Fees Research Program*

The LFRP competition has begun, with Collaborative Research and Training (CRT) awards in three strategic areas: accelerator research, quantum information science, and wildfire-related research. Three topic-based workshops were held to facilitate team-building. The workshops are not a requirement for applying and all teams are open to new members. UCI member Jeff Barrett praised the meeting that he attended as a fantastic opportunity for networking.

Graduate Fellowship awards are also available and are not restricted to the strategic areas of the CRT. Two videoconferences were held for interested applicants and representatives from the labs.

- *Potential legislation on Sexual Harassment & Research Funding*

UC is trying to work with staff from Representative Jackie Speier's office on her proposed bill about research funding and sexual harassment/discrimination.

- *RGPO Current State Assessment Report and Recommendations for the "Future State"*

The "[Current State Assessment](#)" investigation began after the State audit of UCOP in 2016, which resulted in UC taking a closer look at some systemwide programs, including RGPO (Research Grants Program Office). The main areas of interest were where RGPO should be based and current and future funding streams. The thorough investigation included over 50 stakeholder interviews, surveys, and hundreds of documents. RGPO currently has 40 staff members. High level recommendations included:

- Keep RGPO at UCOP. The systemwide office is seen as impartial; there is demonstrated transparency and established mechanisms for accountability.
- Position the Office to serve as a grant-making hub for the UC system and the State.
- Enable solicitation and development of new funding streams.
- Allow for more flexible staffing.
- Expand beyond research support.

As part of the review, the Provost had asked for guidance for determining when funding is allocated through OP versus through a campus. As a rule, if more than one campus is eligible to compete, then the funds should be managed by OP. Funding designated for a single campus generally goes to that campus. There are currently a variety of models, with examples such as the cannabis and firearm research programs. Direct funding from the State for specific programs can be controversial, and there are regulations around political and lobbying activities by university employees. UCORP might consider inviting someone from OGC to a future meeting to discuss this issue.

Action: Members should review the [RGPO Assessment Report](#) before the next meeting on June 10, and be prepared to respond.

- MRU Reviews for 2019-2020 – No changes
- CalISIs Review

UCORP suggested that an ad-hoc group be convened to serve as a review committee for the CalISIs. This would provide for a more rigorous review process, and UCORP members could participate independently. A campus ORU review process could serve as a model. UCORP as a committee could provide feedback. Regarding the question of whether to review the institutes individually or as a portfolio, members noted that they already go through their own reviews so it makes sense to look at them together in this case.

Meeting adjourned: 4:00pm

Meeting minutes drafted by: Joanne Miller, Committee Analyst

Attest: Andrew Baird, UCORP Chair

Meeting minutes approved: 6/10/2019

Meeting participants

Members:

Andrew Baird (Chair, SD), Nasrin Rahimieh (Vice Chair, via video, I), Irina Conboy (B), Karen Bales (D), Jeffrey Barrett (I), Michael Scheibner (M, via video), KK Ramakrishnan (R), Brian Eliceiri (SD) Stuart Gansky (SF, via video), Jarmila Pittermann (SC), Tejasvinee Mody (Graduate Student Representative), Robert May (Academic Council Chair), Kum-Kum Bhavnani (Academic Council Vice Chair)

Consultants, guests, and staff:

Ben Houlton (Professor, UC Davis, California Collaborative for Climate Change Solutions), V. “Ram” Ramanathan (Professor, UCSD, California Collaborative for Climate Change Solutions), Roger Bales (Professor, UCM, UC Water Security and Sustainability Research Initiative, Sierra Nevada Research Institute, David Phillips (Associate Vice President for Energy and Sustainability, UCOP), Arthur Ellis (Vice President for Research and Graduate Studies, UCOP), Bart Aoki (Executive Director, Research Grants Program Office, UCOP), Kathleen Erwin (Director, UC Research Initiatives, UCOP), Emily Rader (ORGS Portfolio/Strategies Manager, UCOP), Lourdes DeMattos (Associate Director, Research Policy Analysis and Coordination, UCOP), Joanne Miller (Committee Analyst)