

**UNIVERSITY COMMITTEE ON RESEARCH POLICY**  
**Monday, May 9, 2022**

**Meeting Minutes**

**I. Chair's Announcements, Approval of Meeting Minutes**

*Research Data Policy Systemwide Review.* The Academic Senate received many comments on the second-round review of the Research Data Policy. Academic Council Chair Robert Horwitz forwarded the comments and suggestions for improvement to the policy owners.

*GSR unionization.* The Academic Council discussed UCORP's statement on the impact of graduate student unionization on research, and determined that Chair Karen Bales should work with CCGA Chair Andrea Kasko on a joint statement. The next step will be to decide whether the two committees will join together to make a request regarding cost-neutrality for PIs. The Academic Council is also interested in the larger issue of graduate student funding.

*MRU Review Reports.* The Dickens Review Report is in the final stages of review. The IGCC Review Report will be ready for review by the end of the week.

**Action:** Minutes from April 11, 2022 were approved.

**II. Consultation with the Office of the President – Office of Research and Innovation**

*Theresa Maldonado, Vice President for Research and Innovation*

*Bart Aoki, Executive Director, Research Grants Programs Office*

*Kathleen Erwin, Director, UC Research Initiatives*

*Deborah Motton Executive Director, Research Policy Analysis and Coordination*

*Janna Tom, Director, Research Policy Analysis and Coordination*

*Lourdes DeMattos, Associate Director, Research Policy Analysis and Coordination*

• ***VP updates***

UC is waiting to see if the \$185 million for climate resilience funding will be in the revised Governor's Budget, which will be released soon. UC is poised to receive the funds and will work with state agencies and other institutions. The state funding is expected to provide \$100m for research, \$50m for regional innovation hubs, and \$35m dedicated to workforce development. The awards will be distributed using a competitive process. All three areas will have an environmental justice element. The UC Global Climate Leadership Council meets next Monday and will discuss the funding. UCORP might consider a special meeting focused on climate funding once it is confirmed.

Another focus of R&I is the DOE's announcement of an \$8 billion Hydrogen Hub opportunity. UC responded to the RFI and intends to work with the state and other regional partners.

In response to recommendations from the Regents Committee on Innovation Transfer and Entrepreneurship, UCOP is making changes to the way it handles patent tracking. Much of the responsibility will be transferred to the campuses in the coming year. Some campuses are more ready than others for this transition. The R&I team will provide a progress report to the Board of Regents at its meeting on May 19<sup>th</sup>.

UCOP is also starting the process of updating the UC Patent Policy and related documents. The faculty will have multiple opportunities to comment. The overarching idea is to streamline the policy and make it more useful. Procedural details will be removed. UCORP is asked to review the current UC Patent policy, including asking locals CORs and colleagues, and bring back comments to share with the RPAC group.

VP Maldonado expressed concern about the way that some established multicampus research entities are funded. The lack of systemwide support for systemwide entities can be problematic, as became clear in the search for a new Director for the UC Observatories. The UC Humanities Research Institute (UCHRI) is another example of where the ability to raise funds and do development for systemwide units would be helpful.

A stakeholder review was conducted recently for UCHRI, which is headquartered at UC Irvine. The report noted the focus of attention on UCI and diminishment of genuine systemwide engagement. The hope is that there will be a renewed interest in a President's Advisory Council on Research in the Humanities – which has become dormant – and a mechanism for systemwide fundraising that will not interfere with campus development efforts.

In addition to the climate resiliency and (potential) hydrogen hub funding, UC will manage state tobacco tax funding of up to \$100 million. There may be increased opportunities in tobacco and breast cancer research. A new bill establishing a Pediatric Cancer Research Grant program would be administered by RGPO.

UCORP asked about progress on revamping the Council on Research, which doesn't seem to be moving forward. There is some push back to having more meetings and/or to expanding the Council of Vice Chancellors of Research.

Changes to the MRU templates will be distributed to UCORP members before the June meeting. MRUs would be asked to use new templates going forward, but allowed use the older template for next year due to the cumulative nature of the five-year review.

### **III. Academic Senate Leadership Update**

*Robert Horwitz, Academic Council Chair*

*Susan Cochran, Academic Council Vice Chair*

Academic Council Chair Robert Horwitz and Vice Chair Susan Cochran joined the meeting to provide an overview of current activities of the Senate.

The Assembly of the Academic Senate met last month and voted in favor of a “memorial to the Regents” for reduction of fossil fuel combustion on the campuses. The memorial is currently out for all-faculty vote.

ICAS met late last month and approved a new transfer curriculum (an update of the “IGETC” standards). The three higher education segments in California were required by law to create a single general education pathway. It was a lot of work and each segment had to compromise. The new agreement now goes to each segment's Senate for a vote. Assuming the new pathway is adopted, community college students will more easily be able to transfer to CSU and UC.

In the aftermath of a problem-plagued changeover in pharmaceutical benefits, UCOP acknowledged that UC Health was not the appropriate unit to address a benefits issue. UC Health's Executive Steering Committee will be reconstituted as an advisory body for HR.

A joint Senate-Administration workgroup on SSGPDPs (Self-Supporting Graduate and Professional Degree Programs), led by CCGA Chair Andrea Kasko, determined that CCGA review was key in approvals of new masters programs.

The final report of the Mitigating the Impact of Covid on Faculty workgroup has been submitted to Provost Brown and will be sent to campuses. It will also be presented at an upcoming Regents' meeting.

Vice Chair Susan Cochran has updated the survey on faculty experience during the Covid pandemic for this year. It is being rolled out on all campuses and all faculty are asked to participate. The data from the previous survey proved extremely useful for the Mitigating the Impact of Covid workgroup report. 1,700 responses to the survey have been submitted so far.

UCOP has released a revised Policy on Abusive Conduct in the Workplace. This year's Senate committees are invited to review it, although the deadline for Senate comments is extended to the fall.

A joint workgroup on the Future of Undergraduate Education has been convened by Provost Brown. The group will look broadly at issues including fully online programs.

#### **IV. Consultation with the UC Division of Agriculture and Natural Resources**

*Glenda Humiston, Vice President, ANR*

*Wendy Powers, Associate Vice President, ANR*

Vice President for UC's Division of Agriculture and Natural Resources Glenda Humiston and Associate Vice President Wendy Powers-Shilling joined the meeting to provide ANR updates. VP Humiston was pleased to announce new cooperative extension specialist positions that have been approved and posted. Two new campuses – UC Irvine and UCLA – submitted proposals that were accepted. ANR expects to add UCSF and UCSD at some point soon.

ANR is waiting for the upcoming omnibus federal Farm Bill and the final State budget to be released. VP Humiston noted that State agencies are starting to contract with UC for scientific work. UC's Federal Governmental Relations unit is assisting on the federal level to make the case for Agricultural Experiment Stations receiving federal funding.

There have been conversations about adding the AES designation to the UC Merced and UC Santa Cruz campuses. The current AES campuses are Berkeley, Davis, and Riverside. UCSC has a well-established agricultural ecology program. There will be a presentation to the Regents in July about the proposal. If UCM and UCSC are approved then there will be work to get additional funding.

A state-wide ANR conference is being planned for next April in Fresno. This type of multi-day “all-hands” meeting occurs every five years and is meant for academics as well as program staff. The UC President's Advisory Committee for ANR will have its meeting at the event, which will also feature keynote speakers and panel discussions. The conference will also offer training and opportunities to check out new technology.

ANR is interested in “public impact research,” which is a focus of the APLU. VP Humiston sees cooperative extension as a key player. With CE offices in every county, California is well positioned to provide infrastructure for any federal program.

AVP Powers noted that key issues for cooperative extension systems nationwide include health equity, climate change, DEI, and workforce development. UC ANR has done well at climate and DEI, and is trying to address health equity by leveraging its connection with the UC Health system. Five health equity advisor positions have been posted. Workforce development opportunities are focused on community economic development, but ANR sees partnerships within UC as key. ANR is also partnering nationally with CDC on vaccination programs and NSF on climate change, among others.

In discussion, the ANR leaders talked briefly about the new Hub for Urban Living at the South Coast REC. Near UC Irvine, the new learning center staff will engage with UCI faculty. Another learning center is being developed in the nearby desert area. These centers do work in human-wildlife interaction, which is becoming a big issue.

AVP Powers sits on the Council of Vice Chancellors of Research. VP Humiston serves on other high-level committees. She would like to see UC working more strategically with ANR to pursue large grants. For example, ANR recently won a \$20 million NSF grant in partnership with UC Davis, UC Berkeley, Cornell, and federal agencies.

#### **V. Systemwide Review Items**

- [Presidential Policy on Affiliations with Certain Healthcare Organizations](#) - Comments due June 15, 2022

UCORP members agreed with the intent of the policy, although some of the language was very legally-oriented and dense.

- [Report of the Negotiated Salary Trial Program Phase 2 Taskforce](#) - Comments due July 19, 2022

The program is seen as an important preemptive retention effort. Those who have been able to take advantage of the trial are very positive about it. But it's not widely available. It favors fields where outside money is available, such as STEM, and where faculty are more likely to be white and/or male. Issues of equity and diversity are the main concerns. The taskforce concluded that ending the negotiated salary program would be too disruptive. In accepting that it needs to continue, the taskforce offered recommendations for how it can be improved and expanded.

- [Proposed Revisions to APM 715 and 760, Leaves of Absence/Family and Medical Leave, and Family Accommodations for Childbearing and Childrearing](#) - Comments due July 19, 2022

UCORP will not comment on these changes to the APM.

## **VI. Round Robin of Reports from the Campuses**

UC Berkeley – The COR and VC-R are discussing indirect cost recovery process and usage. It is unclear how external funding translates into campus budgets. The VC-R is new and getting input from faculty.

UC Davis – The COR is reviewing Senate Grant Program applications. 60 applications were submitted (usually there are closer to 80) for grants of \$25k. The COR responded to the Research Data Policy review and commented on course evaluations and their use in CAP.

UC Irvine – The COR is interested in knowing the Senate Grant budgets of the other campuses. It is conducting five-year reviews for academic programs and reviewing a proposal for a fully online BA program from the Business School for transfer students. UCI faculty recently raised concerns about email scanning and privacy. IT administrators have been invited to join an upcoming meeting to clarify the issues.

UCLA – In its recent meetings, UCLA's COR discussed affiliations and GSR unionization. It completed one ORU review and has one more coming up. Both had external reviewer input. Research administrators met recently with federal agency heads in Washington, DC. UCLA has approximately \$1.27 million in funding for Faculty Research Grants.

UC Merced – The committee commented on the Gallo School of Management pre-proposal and is reviewing a Greenhouse core facility proposal. CoR is also reviewing a campus-wide UCM honors program proposal and commented on the Presidential Policy on Affiliations with Certain Healthcare Organizations.

Riverside – COR discussed GSR unionization. Tuition reductions might not amount to very much if the students are later in their degrees and not taking classes. COR is also in the midst of its faculty research grants process.

UCSD – The COR reviewed a new school of computing data sciences. The committee is talking about how much funding gets lost due to accounting glitches, especially with the new financial accounting system and its multiple issues. Faculty are concerned that they are losing funding due to system mistakes and miscommunication. COR and the Committee on Academic Information Technology will meet jointly with the CFO and Vice Chancellor to discuss.

UCSF – UCSF is concerned about delays in clinical trial activation and the fact that it takes 6-12 months makes UCSF a less desirable place to do clinical trials. Efforts to accelerate the timeline worked for a while and more clinical trials were begun, but ended up being understaffed. COR discussed the increasing number of

requests from funding agencies for data sharing or retention plans. This can be labor intensive when faculty need to anonymize large sets of data. The committee is also discussing conflict of interest declarations that seem to be needed for even the smallest things, and that in the past would be considered irrelevant. Researchers are asking for clearer guidelines around disclosure. UCSF is having an issue with the NIH administrative supplement. If anyone else is encountering problems, please contact UCSF member Lea Grinberg.

UCSB – The COR is working on faculty research grants in weekly meetings. UCSB had been thinking about conducting a faculty welfare survey, along the lines of UCSC, but set it aside due to the larger systemwide survey on Covid impacts. The COR is discussing how the UCSB campus could best implement the recommendations from the Mitigating the Impacts of Covid on Faculty Report.

UCSC – COR is working on its last year of Faculty Research Grants. Next year the campus is finally implementing non-competitive faculty grants for each faculty member who applies. Recipients will have to explain how the money will be spent and will be required to report how the money was spent in order to receive funding the next year. UCSC did its own Covid impact survey.

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Meeting minutes drafted by: Joanne Miller, UCORP Analyst  
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