

UNIVERSITY COMMITTEE ON RESEARCH POLICY
Monday, June 8, 2020

Meeting Minutes

1. Academic Senate Leadership Update

Kum-Kum Bhavnani, Academic Council Chair

Mary Gauvain, Academic Council Vice Chair

Academic Council Chair Kum-Kum Bhavnani provided an update on the issues facing the Academic Senate and UC at large:

Budget – As previously reported, the State will have a budget shortfall due to the Covid-19 pandemic and UC’s funding is expected to decrease by 10%. The State is hoping that federal funding will make up for some losses, and if so then funding will be restored.

Campuses re-opening – A systemwide contact tracing and testing group sent its report to the Council of Chancellors for their review last week. UCSF has told that all employees who can work remotely should do so until Jan. 18. There will be in person classes and labs as needed.

May Board of Regents Meeting – The Regents unanimously agreed to phase out standardized testing for undergraduate admissions, approving a proposal put forward by President Janet Napolitano. A group will be formed to evaluate the feasibility of an alternative standardized assessment method. If none is found by 2024, then there will be no test.

Remote Instruction Survey – The Academic Senate helped develop a survey on remote instruction that was sent to faculty (directly) and students (through UCUES, the biennial UC Undergraduate Experience Survey). A preliminary report is underway.

Climate Crisis Task Force – Chair Bhavnani sent a request to UCOC for nominations for a new Climate Crises Task Force of the Academic Senate. Members will represent their campus and have a diversity of disciplines and race/ethnicity/gender.

Extending Faculty Diversity Task Force – The Extending Faculty Diversity Task Force met this year to develop methods for retention of faculty from underrepresented groups. The Task Force’s Report to Academic Council requested a two-year extension to give the group more time to apply for one of the Advancing Faculty Diversity grants.

Other updates included:

- New campus guidelines have been issued from UCAP and endorsed by the Academic Council for merit reviews, teaching evaluations, and tenure and promotion processes in light of the COVID-19 crisis.
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- The new UC Merced Chancellor will be Dr. Juan Sánchez Muñoz, currently the President of the University of Houston-Downtown.
- President Napolitano will step down on August 1. An announcement of a new President is expected at the July Regents’ meeting or before.
- A UC response to the recent White House executive order regarding Chinese students and researchers.

- New guidelines on SVSH sanctions from a joint faculty-administration group that was co-chaired by Chair Bhavnani and UCLA Chancellor Gene Block.
- A proposed bill in the California Assembly (ACA5) to add an item on the November 3rd general election ballot to repeal Proposition 209.

2. Consultation with UC Office of the President – Office of Research & Innovation

1. Update from UC Vice President for Research & Innovation

Theresa Maldonado, Office of Research & Innovation Vice President

Vice President Maldonado thanked UCORP for the letter recommending software programs and services that would assist in research activities while most researchers have to stay at home. She discussing the recommendations with the VC-Rs and UC Provost Michael Brown to find out what can be done, with the understanding that the request is time sensitive.

Each Vice Chancellor for Research has activated a phased ramp-up program for their campus that complies with local health orders. The programs have to be done individually to comply with local regulations. VP Maldonado reported that a testing and contract tracing task force led by UC Health VP Carrie Byington recently issued a report for the Chancellors after three weeks of intense work. There were 50-60 participants at each meeting. The report reflects an understanding of the need to balance systemwide guidance and campus autonomy. As of June 8 there is still not enough information to determine whether campuses can open. A new Task Force led by UC Health will look at various factors involved in re-opening, including modeling for testing, diagnostic testing, apps, and contact tracing.

The VC-Rs have been looking at details of how to ramp up research on campuses, including how human traffic flow is managed, elevators, bathrooms, sanitation needs, etc. UCSD intended to test the 5,000 students on campus this summer, but only 1,000 have volunteered for testing. Campus leaders know that campuses are not bubbles with a controlled population. Approximately 34% of undergraduate students live on campus.

VP Maldonado said that she has been getting questions from faculty about how tech transfer and commercialization activities are handled with regard to tenure. The Board of Regents has also shown recent interest in tech transfer and commercialization and formed a task force.

Some campuses/disciplines are finding the situation particularly challenging, especially when thinking about how to bring people back together. Researchers who support staff members who cannot return to work are facing a rough road ahead, and some are feeling like the administration is not providing solutions. Public universities in other states are opening with safeguards in place. A very limited campus opening for research (“Phase 2”) may be in place for a year.

Other issues include junior faculty using up their start-up money, childcare needs, and loss of worktime for merit and promotion reviews.

2. Research Funding for COVID-19 – Update

Bart Aoki, Executive Director, Research Grants Program Office

Kathleen Erwin, Director, UC Research Initiatives

The Research Grants Program Office provided 85 emergency seed awards of \$25,000 for Covid-19 research using existing funds from other statewide programs (HIV/AIDS, Tobacco, and Breast Cancer). In July, researchers will have an opportunity to submit proposals for funding renewals for

awards of \$150,000. A new website, <https://uckeepresearching.org/>, lists all of the projects with abstracts.

Next year, UCORP will lead the MRU review for UC MEXUS. The All-UC Group in Economic History was also supposed to be reviewed, but asked to be discontinued as an MRU. UCORP members asked if there were any attempts to start new MRUs. Since the decision to use the MRPI (multicampus research programs and initiatives) as a vehicle to fund competitive research, there have been no proposals for new MRUs. The Compendium contains directions for establishing a new MRU, but there is little incentive as there is no funding. There are groups that function in multicampus teams (e.g., Cal-ISIs) but have not gone through the MRU process. UCORP members feel that MRUs could be used strategically to strengthen UC research in key areas.

The establishment of MRPI as a funding tool was in part to enable new projects and get rid of legacy entities. It has been successful, but short term funding has drawbacks as well, such as what some might call a piecemeal approach and lack of cohesion. Also, the funding has been declining and is now down to \$7.3 million. The MRPI program was reviewed in the report of the Huron Group, a consulting firm that was contracted after the State's audit of UCOP, and in the follow up "Research Grants Program Office Current State Assessment Report" (Feb. 2019). Before that, it was reviewed in the PRG review. In both instances the program was positively reviewed.

41 Letters of Intent – the highest number yet – were received for the UC-National Laboratories In-Residence Graduate Fellowship opportunity, which is part of the UC National Laboratories Lab Fees Research Program.

3. Office of Research Policy Analysis and Coordination (RPAC)

Janna Tom, Interim Executive Director, Research Policy Analysis and Coordination

Lourdes Demattos, Interim Executive Director, Associate Director

Agnes Balla, Research Policy Manager

Andrew Jones, Research Policy Manager

Emily Rader, Portfolio Manager

Research Policy Analysis and Coordination staff asked for input from UCORP on a request from one campus to extend the standing exception for sponsor-initiated clinical trials to pre-clinical studies, which is essentially about ownership of inventions. RPAC staff consulted with its main constituent groups: contract and grants leadership, IP directors, industry contract directors, and clinical trial directors earlier in the year, and are now collecting final input. The consensus among stakeholders was to be that a standing exception is not warranted and the request should be denied. UCORP members agreed with this conclusion and mentioned that there are "service contracts" or agreements that make a blanket exception unnecessary.

UCORP was asked to contribute to the direction of a new draft data policy, which will be refined and sent out for formal systemwide review in the fall. Feedback that UCORP had provided at the end of 2019, was incorporated into the current draft. The policy focuses on data ownership and on highlighting the value of data to UC. The policy was revised from the previous draft version to be more flexible regarding the management and stewardship of data, with advice to align with scholarly disciplines and accommodation of local needs. Common questions can be addressed in accompanying guidelines, which are more flexible and can be updated more easily than policy.

Discussion topics included whether there would be any monitoring of practices, what to do when people leave UC, and the potential additional burden of data management. The policy is not designed

to mandate behaviors, but to provide information and let individuals or departments determine what to do. Resources are available at the campuses and systemwide from the California Digital Library.

There is a standard retention schedule for administrative documents, but not for research data. VP Maldonado said that doing Covid-19 testing and contact tracing would mean the gathering of a huge amount of data and that there should be a data management strategy.

3. Chair's announcements, approval of minutes

Andrew Baird, UCORP Chair

- Meeting minutes from May 11, 2020, were approved with a few minor corrections.
- Chair Baird told UCORP members that if there are issues that come up over the summer the committee may be asked to convene again or provide comments via email.
- The big discussion items for the Academic Council right now are budget cuts, faculty health and welfare, and an ongoing discussion about the graduate student strikers and the administrative response.
- Following up on the UCFW inquiry about increased administrative burden, the Committee on Faculty Welfare is pulling material together for the fall. UCORP will stay involved.

UCORP members spent some time talking about the impact of Covid-19 on research productivity, which is impacting caregivers – of children or elders – to a greater extent. Caregivers tend to be women, and data is showing that women researchers are being disproportionately impacted, although many early career faculty will likely feel the impact on their careers for years. Members talked about how to provide teaching or service release for women and others whose work has been impacted by Covid-19 so that they can catch up. Using “stop-the-clock” is an option, but it will have long-term impacts on those faculty members’ careers. UCSF offers a “hardship” grant that UC might use as a model to provide more funding for women/caregivers who are adversely impacted. Or there could be an adjustment to the merit cycle so that the portion counted excludes Covid-19 time; shrinking the evaluation timing rather than postponing. While this is a CAP issue too, it can take a significant toll from a research-perspective.

Action: UCORP will draft a letter to Academic Council to raise awareness of these issues from the research perspective.

4. Issues Under Systemwide and Senate Review

- Proposed Presidential Policy on Native American Cultural Affiliation and Repatriation (Comments due June 17, 2020)

Comments from the UC Davis anthropology faculty will be forwarded to UCOP.

- Draft Recommendations of the University Task Force on Faculty Disciplinary Standards (Comments due June 17, 2020)

5. New Items and wrap up for the year

UCORP may wish to provide feedback to the Institute for Transportation Studies (ITS) on the recent issuance of guidance for how a campus can become a member of the MRU. The requirements are daunting.

The Working Group on Research Information Management Systems (RIMS) will provide a status report to UCORP next year.

Meeting adjourned: 1:15pm

Meeting minutes drafted by: Joanne Miller, UCORP Analyst

Attest: Andrew Baird, UCORP Chair

Meeting participants:

Members: Andrew Baird (Chair), Richard Desjardins (Vice Chair), Irina Conboy (Berkeley), Karen Bales (Davis), Lee Bardwell (Irvine), Kathrin Plath (Los Angeles), Michael Scheibner (Merced), 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), Atreyi Mitra (Undergraduate Student Representative, UCSD), Kum-Kum Bhavnani (Academic Council Chair), Mary Gouvain (Academic Council Vice Chair).

Consultants, guests, and staff: Theresa Maldonado (Vice President, Office of Research & Innovation), Bart Aoki (Executive Director, Research Grants Program Office), Kathleen Erwin (Director, UC Research Initiatives), Emily Rader (Research Strategy and Portfolio Manager), Janna Tom (Director, Research Policy Analysis and Coordination), Lourdes DeMattos (Associate Director, Research Policy Analysis and Coordination), Agnes Balla (Research Policy Manager), Andrew Jones (Research Policy Manager), Joanne Miller (Committee Analyst).