

**Minutes of Teleconference****February 9, 2009****I. Announcements***James Carey, UCORP Chair**Greg Miller, Davis Representative*

1. Chair Carey updated the committee on items of interest from the December 17, 2008, Academic Council meeting:
  - President Yudof has created a task force on creative funding  
**DISCUSSION:** Members asked whether differential fees by campus were still on the table. Senate Vice Chair Powell indicated that such fees were now off the table due to widespread and rapid unfavorable feedback received by the idea's presenter.
  - The University Committee on Academic Freedom (UCAF) petitioned the Academic Council to be granted full Council membership. Systemwide feedback was not supportive of the addition, so the petition was denied.
  - The Regents have decided to reduce freshman enrollment for 2009, but have increased transfer admissions, yielding a net 1800 student decrease.
  - The Education Abroad Program budget continues to be debated. As issue now is whether University funds should be used for nominally non-academic overseas programs.
  - An issue has arisen at the Irvine campus regarding a faculty member who is refusing to take state-mandated sexual harassment prevention training. The issue seems to be escalating.
  - The debate over professional doctorates also continues, with the focus on who should be responsible for "applied doctorates": UC or CSU?
2. Davis Representative Miller updated the committee on items of interest from the January 28, 2009, Academic Council meeting:
  - The Council received a briefing on recent budget meetings between President Yudof, campus chancellors and divisional Senate chairs. Among the items discussed were furloughs, layoffs, increasing non-resident tuition, and differential fees by majors, not campuses. No course of action was decided upon.
  - The January revise of the accountability framework was received poorly by all Senate respondents. At issue may be staffing in the Office of the President (UCOP).
  - President Yudof presented his Blue and Gold Opportunity Plan, which is designed to improve access for students from lower income families.
  - Regent Eddie Island consulted with the Council on a variety of issues, but the overarching theme was diversity and inclusion at UC.
  - The search for a full-time provost continues. Bob Grey has stepped down, and former Senate chair Larry Pitts has been named the new interim provost.

- A proposal to amend the area “d” admissions requirement to include earth science laboratory courses will soon be sent for systemwide review.
  - The Davis school of nursing proposal is moving forward, but with strong reservations of many on the Academic Council. Council correspondence will reflect this dissent.
3. Chair Carey updated the committee on items of interest from the January 29, 2009, meeting of the Academic Council Special Committee on Lab Issues (ACSCOLI):
- Steven Chu has been named President Obama’s Secretary of Energy, leaving the Lawrence Berkeley National Lab without a director. A national search for a new director will soon commence; Paul Alivisatos has been named interim director.
  - Associate Vice President for Laboratory Management John Birely is preparing a document to illustrate better the value added to UC through its affiliation with the weapons labs, Lawrence Livermore and Los Alamos National Labs.
  - UC did not receive the full 2009 management fees due to various safety issues which carried payment penalties.
  - Discussion of the potential conflicts between Department of Energy (DOE) directives and academic freedom continued.
  - Senate Vice Chair Powell added that members could expect to see debate over a new proposal to move the weapons labs for DOE oversight to Pentagon management.

**DISCUSSION:** Members asked for news regarding the planning progress of the proposed systemwide school of global health. Senate Vice Chair Powell responded that no concrete developments had occurred, but planning leaders have received grants and continue to work. Members also asked for an update on last fall’s investigation into the stewardship of research data. Analyst Feer noted that the committee would receive an update on this topic at its next full meeting from its consultants.

## **II. Consent Calendar**

1. Minutes of Meeting of December 8, 2009  
**ACTION:** The minutes were approved as noticed.
2. Systemwide Review Items:
  - a. Proposed Revisions to APM 240 (Deans)  
**ACTION:** The committee elected not to opine on this item.
  - b. Proposed Revisions to APM 028 (Disclosure of Financial Interest in Private Sponsors of Research)  
**ISSUE:** The proposed amendments are technical in nature, *e.g.*, updating verbiage to conform to current UC policies, such as including “or domestic partner” after “spouse.”  
**DISCUSSION:** Chair Carey asked whether there were notable differences between the sponsor practices in different fields, such as medicine versus agriculture. UCLA Representative Lane indicated that the oversight mechanism is different for the medical schools, but that the underlying

principles were the same: research funding should not come with “strings” attached, though there are exceptions, such as pre-review of unpublished material. Chair Carey asked if others had the impression that securing continued research funding led some researchers to be less critical than they otherwise might be. It was thought that because grant funds are re-competed and thus not assured, intellectually rigorous research was the norm. But because not all fields regularly secure private funding, those that receive state funding also receive the state’s research directives, regardless of the study proposed in the application process. Further, because funding in some fields is so limited, any indictment of funding practices or sponsors could jeopardize some researchers’ long term solvency. Other members noted that the requirements in place at many medical schools seem to have solved this dilemma; annual reporting, vigilant compliance officers, and targeted regulations serve to make many campus policies robust.

**ACTION:** UCLA Representative Lane and Graduate Student Representative Serwer will serve as lead reviewers for this item.

3. UCAF memo re RE-89 Implementation

**ISSUE:** UCAF has written to UCORP seeking its endorsement and co-sponsorship of a request to the Academic Council that recently promulgated implementation guidelines of RE-89 be expanded to include *ex officio* Senate oversight of campus implementation committees.

**DISCUSSION:** Members noted that the UCAF request suggested that campus Committees on Research (CORs) submit the list of potential Senate members, but it was agreed that this list should instead come from the campus Committees on Committees. In order to retain campus COR participation, then, UCORP will suggest adding a third recommendation: that a campus COR representative be an *ex officio* member of the campus implementation committees, in addition to the *ex officio* campus CAF representative.

**ACTION:** Analyst Feer will draft a letter to UCAF expressing the committee’s feedback and submit it to UCAF pending approval.

4. UCCC IT Survey Volunteers

**ISSUE:** The University Committee on Computing and Communications (UCCC) has sought and received approval from the Academic Council to conduct every-other-year systemwide faculty surveys to determine the immediate IT needs of instructors in the classroom. This issue arose after UCCC noted that current systemwide IT initiatives all focus on macro-level issues. UCCC has requested that UCORP and the University Committee on Education Policy (UCEP) join it in devising the survey.

**ACTION:** Merced Representative LiWang and Chair Carey will work with UCCC on this effort.

5. Compendium Review Task Force Volunteer

**ISSUE:** The “Compendium”, which governs internal systemwide academic programs and reviews, is due for a decadal revision. As UCORP is a “compendium committee”, a volunteer is requested to join the revision task force.

**ACTION:** Riverside Representative Hammond will join the task force as UCORP's representative.

### **III. Campus Committee Reports**

#### **1. Campus COR Summaries**

**ISSUE:** Each campus's COR has its own regulations, responsibilities, budgets, etc. A master comparative list is being developed.

**DISCUSSION:** Members noted that each campus COR has a different name, and it was suggested to add a field to the summary spreadsheet to incorporate this fact. Members also noted that this effort will facilitate the development of best practices among campus CORs.

**ACTION:** Analyst Feer will continue to collate campus summaries, and the committee will determine final format and presentation and usage issues at its next meeting.

#### **2. Campus Concerns**

**ISSUE:** There have been anecdotal reports that some campus's Offices of Research are more of a hindrance than a help in prosecuting the University's research mission.

**DISCUSSION:** Some campuses reported productive and collaborative relationships with their Offices of Research and their Vice Chancellors for Research (VCRs), though these reports were tempered by delays in paperwork and other issues associated with a shortage of qualified staff. It was questioned whether more Senate oversight in this area would really be beneficial, especially as it was noted that many staff, once they are trained by UC, are lured to the private sector by better pay. Other campuses reported that their VCRs were seeking to expand their authority over local funding, such as COR grants, monies captured through indirect cost recovery and/or non-resident tuition, etc., as well as over graduate divisions.

**ACTION:** Members will investigate further and report at the March meeting.

### **IV. Synergy Project**

*James Carey, UCORP Chair*

#### **1. Seminar Demonstration**

**ISSUE:** Chair Carey has arranged for colleagues at the Davis division to present a short "webinar" as a concrete means of illustrating how a systemwide seminar network might work. From the Davis division, UCORP was joined remotely by Professor Walter Leal, Davis Academic Technology Services representative Paul VerWey, and administrative assistant Leslie Sandberg. The demonstration has been archived at may be accessed at: <https://breeze.ucdavis.edu/p73124575/>.

**DISCUSSION:** UCORP members unanimously gave laudatory assessments of the concept. One member reported significant technical difficulties, though, and many questions were asked regarding the set-up of the virtual room, broadcasting multiple speakers, the technical and personnel requirements of "hosting" a room and maintaining archived seminars, and cost. While many of the technical issues are expected to be resolved through user familiarity and the establishment of best practices, Chair Carey will investigate and report back on costing issues.

Members also raised the issues of quality interaction in a virtual forum and of legal limitations surrounding the broadcast of proprietary information or not-yet-fully developed theorems. Nonetheless, the intersections of developing this practice further were also highlighted: telemedicine, travel restrictions, staffing shortages, and other external limits underscore the need for further investigation of this proposal.

**ACTION:** The committee will return to this topic at its next meeting.

2. White Paper Evaluation

*Note: Item not addressed.*

3. Next Generation Ideation

**ISSUE:** Previously, both faculty and student representatives have noted the absence of departmental complementarity across the campuses; that is, the nine economics departments, to take just one example, have little to no interaction with each other. Chair Carey poses the question: Is this a good synergy-related project?

**DISCUSSION:** Members noted that intercampus departmental cooperation could help fill in specialty gaps at any one campus. Members also noted that staffing and budgetary concerns are implicated under this topic, along with departmental and campus connectivity. Senate Chair Powell added that the new systemwide chief information officer has also been investigating this type of global need. It was observed that systemwide or top-down leadership would be necessary to avoid multiple solutions to this one problem.

**ACTION:** The committee will continue this discussion at its next meeting.

Adjournment: 1:50 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Kenneth Feer, Senior Policy Analyst

Attest: James Carey, UCORP Chair