
Council on Research
Minutes of Meeting: October 12, 2016
Approved: November 16, 2016

Present: L. Havton (Chair), R. Desjardins (Vice Chair), J. Agnew, S. Bensinger, J. Caskey, J. Chen, L. Havton, Y. Ju, R. Kelley, O. Kwon, A. Karagozian (ex officio), A. Shapiro (USAC), B. Jin (GSA)

Absent: K. McHugh

Guest: S. Cochran

Staff: E. Feller

Meeting: The meeting was called to order at 1:00 p.m.

Minutes: The June 6, 2016 minutes were approved.

Academic Senate Chair's Welcome

Chair Leif Havton welcomed Academic Senate Chair Susan Cochran. Cochran thanked Council on Research members for their service and explained that the UCLA Senate has 23 committees that discuss the educational mission and report out to the Senate. COR is a critical Council to faculty given its involvement in reviewing policies that relate to research.

Council on Research Welcome

After a round of introductions, Chair Havton presented the Council's charge and bylaws. Havton explained that it is helpful to understand the function of the Council as a source of information and advice to Senate leadership as well as Administration at UCLA, providing the faculty's perspective on the research mission at UCLA and UC. The Council has representation at the level of the Office of the President, through UCORP (University Committee on Research Policy). COR also promotes multidisciplinary research in reviewing and addressing policies that pertain to research. COR is also charged with administering the research grants program, through the work of the Faculty Grants Program Committee, to support faculty across campus.

Office of the Vice Chancellor of Research Updates

Interim Vice Chancellor of Research Ann Karagozian briefed the Council on several topics.

- A BruinPost was sent to faculty on October 11 from the OVCR with information on different research funding opportunities on campus and including updates on technology.
- Last year, COR took the initiative to promote Trans-Disciplinary Seed Grants. The OVCR's office wishes to encourage interdisciplinary collaboration and will work with COR to promote these

opportunities. This year, there is funding available from the OVCR's office, half of which will be dedicated to funding research in big data.

- As of October 11, UCLA's Office of Intellectual Property and Industry Sponsored Research (OIP-ISR) is now the UCLA Technology Development Group.
- The state Governor signed off on funds to promote research and bring proof of concept in startup companies. This could have an impact on UC and UCLA.

Members raised a concern regarding tools available to researchers to communicate their work outside of the campus. The systems and databases are more advanced in other institutions and members asked if the OVCR can foster the development of a more robust IT infrastructure to facilitate the promotion of research work. VC Karagozian explained that there is a significant decentralization of the UCLA campus which puts the stress and responsibility of promotion on the department. OPUS may present some advantages to faculty in this regard once it is launched.

UCORP Update

Vice Chair Richard Desjardins briefed the Council on the issues discussed at the October 10 UCORP meeting.

- UCORP is involved in the evaluation of Multicampus Research Units (MRU). Last year UCORP spent a significant amount of time on a 15-year "sunset" review of an MRU.
- Importance of communicating the research mission of UC to the public.
- Some universities including UCLA, MIT and Harvard, adopted a policy of 'openness in research'. This is a UC policy proposal that may be coming forth; UC may want to regress from that due to the existence of private funding.
- Grants Program Practices and ORU process at different campuses. UCLA's COR is expected to report back before the next UCORP meeting.

Faculty Grants Program

Chair Havton briefed the Council on the grants program process. COR has a \$1.4 million budget to fund Senate faculty research. The funding has been stable for many years.

The review process is very lengthy and complex, requiring three peer reviewers per application and a secondary review by the Faculty Grants Program Committee, who make budget recommendations based on the peer-reviews. Over the past five years, COR has been funding approximately 95% of all applications in the different grant categories (Research Enabling Grants, Faculty Research Grants and Trans-Disciplinary Seed Grants). Chair Havton stressed that the role of the Council is to promote research and help colleagues. In many cases these funds are the only stimulus faculty have to conduct research. The application and review process needs to be simplified.

Members unanimously voted to approve a more streamlined review process and application, checking that the proposals are in compliance with the policy.

ORU Reviews Update

The office of the Vice Provost of Interdisciplinary and Cross-Campus Affairs is working to begin the reviews of Organized Research Units. The plan is to review the Brain Research Institute and the Latin American Institute this academic year. COR will have a minor role suggesting reviewers and commenting on the reviews.

With no additional business, the meeting adjourned at 2:57 p.m.