

**Minutes
Committee on Research
May 12, 2009**

The Committee on Research (COR) met on Tuesday, May 12, 2009, from 2-3:30 p.m. in 307 Kerr Hall.

Present: Phokion Kolaitis (Chair), Stephanie Casher (ASO staff), Shaowei Chen, Donka Farkas, Carla Freccero, Holger Schmidt, Sriram Shastry, Lewis Watts, and Meg Wilson.

Absent with notice: Vanita Seth

The minutes of April 7, 2009, were approved.

Chair's Announcements:

From UCORP: UCORP discussed the potential implications of the recent unionization of UC postdoctoral scholars. They will be represented by UAW in negotiating a contract with UC. In light of these developments, how will the relationship between UC faculty and postdoctoral scholars change?

The Chair also reported that the review of the MRPI proposals by a panel of experts is going forward. In the meantime, UCORP wrote to Academic Council Chair Croughan regarding the process and raised certain concerns about shared governance.

Convocation on Research

The Committee carried out an initial discussion of the responses received from the divisions with the information about awards that would qualify for inviting the recipients to the planned Convocation on Research. Only one division provided the exact information requested. At the final COR meeting on June 2, the Committee will vet the responses more fully and will attempt to identify the top awards in each division. COR will then solicit information about award recipients from divisions, and work over the summer to identify a date for the Convocation, and plan the event sometime in the next academic year.

Institute for Marine Sciences (IMS) Draft Charge

COR has no comment on the IMS Draft charge.

UC Seminar Network

While the Committee agreed that a UC Seminar Network was a good idea in principle, most COR members felt that the timing was not right for this kind of undertaking in the current fiscal climate. There were also concerns that costs have not been completely examined, and what kinds of local resources will be needed for a campus to participate.

One committee member also thought it might be a good idea to have a pilot phase of the program, with a limited number of high quality seminars, to gauge demand and troubleshoot any problems encountered in implementing this initiative.

Update on SRG/FRG Awards

The COR analyst is in the process of sending out award letters. In addition, the Chair plans to send a letter out to all Senate faculty members explaining the decision-making process and providing various statistics about the distribution of grants awarded.

Proposed Amendment to Standing Order 100.4 – Emergency Furlough and Salary Reduction Policies

Twice in the past (in the early 1930s and in 1993), the UC President has imposed pay cuts. This begs the question – if the President already has this authority, why is this amendment needed?

In regards to the proposed amendment, COR has the following concerns:

- The timetable does not allow for adequate Senate consultation in the proposed amendment to Standing Order 100.4.
- The document seems disturbingly vague and absolute.
- The conflation of natural disasters and financial emergencies. In particular, the interim authority policy should not be used to declare an emergency due to financial challenges.
- The President should not be able to declare an emergency on a campus without the Chancellor of that campus initiating the request.
- There is no mention of the implications the furlough/salary reduction policy would have on employee benefits.
- There is also a concern that various campuses may be treated differently, when responses to a fiscal emergency should be born by the UC system as a whole.

The meeting adjourned at 3:15 p.m.

So attests,
Phokion Kolaitis, Chair
Committee on Research