

BERKELEY DIVISION OF THE ACADEMIC SENATE
Committee on Research
2022-23 ANNUAL REPORT

In fulfilling its charge as established in the bylaws of the Berkeley Division of the Academic Senate, the Committee on Research (COR) carried out the following activities during the 2022-23 academic year. The committee was chaired by Professor Lia Fernald (Public Health). COR emerged from the effects of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic and held all meetings in person. With city and campus lifting mask mandates, some members continued to wear masks while others did not.

RESEARCH AND SCHOLARSHIP GRANTS

The Committee discontinued awarding research grants to faculty in 2014, with the creation of the Berkeley Excellence Accounts for Research (BEAR) program, administered in the Office of the Vice Provost for the Faculty. The Committee no longer administers a grant program for emeritus faculty that provides small grants for basic research and scholarly activities. This program has also been transferred to the Office of the Vice Provost for the Faculty, effective in 2022. The Committee submitted a proposal to the Committee on Rules and Elections (R&E) requesting to change By-law 25 to reflect its discontinuance of research grant funding. R&E approved the proposal on 09/15/22, the Divisional Council (DIVCO) reviewed it, and the Academic Senate faculty approved it during the Division Meeting on 10/19/22.

ORGANIZED RESEARCH UNITS (ORUs)

Associate Vice Chancellor-Research, Linda Rugg, provided an overview of current policies and systems with managing ORUs. VCRO is looking for a better structure for ORUs due to increased administrative costs and shrinking budgets. The Committee planned to discuss issues and improvements of ORUs at a future meeting. The committee did not get involved with ORU reviews this year.

WRITTEN COMMENTS

COR submitted written comments on the following issues:

- *Proposed second draft revisions to the Academic Personnel Manual (APM) Sections 025 and 671, Conflict of Commitment and Outside Activities of Faculty Members and Conflict of Commitment and Outside Activities of Health Sciences Compensation Plan Participants*
- *Proposed revisions to Presidential Policy BFB-BUS-43, Purchases of Goods and Services; Supply Chain Management*
- *Proposed revisions to the Presidential Policy on Inventions, Patents, and Innovation Transfer*

CONSULTATION ON RESEARCH POLICY

Vice Chancellor-Research Kathy Yelick joined the COR meeting and outlined priorities i.e., advance interconnected excellence in research, catalyze research opportunities, expand campus footprint for research e.g., Moffett Field, attention on climate and environment, social justice and equality, and Berkeley Climate Change Network (BCCN). VCR Yelick is focusing on improving research administration, which is aligned with Executive Vice Chancellor and Provost Ben Hermalin's push for "bureaucracy busting" on campus. AVC-R Rugg continued to attend COR meetings as an invited guest to reinforce communication between COR and the VCRO.

Max Aufhammer, Academic Senate Vice Chair and Co-Chair of Reducing Bureaucracy Taskforce, Andrea Lambert-Tan, Assistant Executive Vice Chancellor and Chief of Staff and Co-Chair of Reducing Bureaucracy Taskforce, Elizabeth Brashers, Assistant Vice Chancellor & Chief of Staff, and Kairi Williams, Assistant Vice Chancellor for Research Administration &

Compliance outlined the charge of EVCP Hermalin in forming the Reducing Bureaucracy Taskforce. Goals of the Reducing Bureaucracy Taskforce included: 1. Identify process pain points and navigational bottlenecks. Document the various processes, policies, and operations and investigate ways to reduce complexity, workload and/or inefficiencies., 2. Recommend improvements and opportunities for change that reduces bureaucratic burden on people and/or are easier to navigate., 3. Recommend reform initiatives and implement solutions.

The Committee's charge of consultation on campus research activities and policy was of upmost importance this year as the campus was thrust into an unprecedented and historical nearly six-week strike of University of California (UC) academic workers i.e., graduate student instructors (GSIs), graduate student researchers (GSRs), and postdoctoral fellows. With the addition of the Associate Vice Chancellor-Research as a regular invited guest, the channel of communication between COR and the VCRO has been greatly improved. The VCRO regularly solicited the committee's input on research policy and practice, both formally and informally.

Like the 2021-22 COR group, the committee established three internal task forces this year to address current issues facing research at Berkeley. The task force topics were generated by committee members, and task forces prepared in between COR meetings and met during portions of the larger meetings. The tasks forces were:

Infrastructure, overhead, lab space: The task force focused on issues related to the lack of plan for infrastructure building and maintenance, understanding overhead and tuition return, and reports from departments that highlight needs for infrastructure investments/maintenance.

Arts and Humanities Research: The group discussed the disadvantages of grants (i.e., unpaid leave) and the library cuts with impact on research and teaching.

Funding, collaboration: The group discussed ways of maintaining and restoring the vigor and prestige of the research enterprise across UC Berkeley by providing competitive salaries, facilities, and other resources to faculty, staff, students, and all researchers.

Given increased attention reducing bureaucracy and strike and post-strike recovery efforts, the internal task force committees did not produce any final reports or recommendations. COR submitted a memo with recommendations for next steps in the wake of the post-strike campus to VC-Research Yelick. In turn, this memo was shared with EVCP Hermalin and served as a starting outline to address the issues and concerns of faculty in a post-strike environment.

IDEAS AND MOTIVATION FOR NEXT YEAR

Recommendations for VCR Kathy Yelick:

- Grants administration is the most important to focus on. Improving the processes, e.g., indirect cost recovery (ICR).
- Supporting the smaller research funding units, i.e., Library.
- Lowering the barriers to writing grants.
- Getting more indirect costs back into the departments.
- Looking at and evaluating the Organized Research Units (ORUs).
- Issues of deferred maintenance impact research.
- Guidance on the kind of grants needed for Arts and Humanities (A&H) and how to access research funding.
- Workflow of the processes for A&H faculty on leave working on research.

- Connecting with other disciplines for grants.
- Simplify contracts and grants accounting (CGA).
- Concerns with the ICR rate being too high, consider lowering the ICR.

Future of ORUs with AVCR Linda Rugg:

Looking forward, AVCR Rugg stressed the importance of the COR working on the Organized Research Units (ORUs) review process and looking at funding opportunities to share with other campus units, i.e., the library. The AVCR successor is a conduit and communication between the Vice Chancellor of Research Office (VCRO) and COR. The Committee should look at the other University of California campuses to see how they work with COR to understand research functions on other campuses.

AVCR Rugg recommended future work between the VCRO and COR, i.e., defining what centers and ORUs are on campus. Currently, centers are not under deans; they are under the VCRO. Some COR members suggested moving centers under the dean of social science. AVCR Rugg clarified that centers do not fit neatly under one dean and are hard to manage administratively, which is why they are under the VCRO. COR discussed ORUs and commented that many have no incentive to change, e.g., clustering to help with cost and expenses, sharing staff, and pulling salaries for administrative support. AVCR Rugg suggested analyzing the current nomenclature of a center and institute, the funding allocation, and how they should be reviewed.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

COR also discussed the following issues:

- Indirect Research Costs
- ProS Pilot to Support Collaborative & Community-Engaged Research (CCER)
- Innovation Transfer Transformation - process to transform the UC innovation transfer enterprise
- Implications for the strike on the faculty experience as it relates to research
- Graduate student funding, admissions offer letters, and issues related to the strike
- Developing a syllabus for 299s

COR REPRESENTATIVES ON OTHER COMMITTEES

COR members served as Senate representatives to the following campus and systemwide committees:

- Systemwide University Committee on Research Policy (UCORP) — Professor Ozer (fall) and Professor Elm (spring)
- Hellman Fellows Fund Award Committee—Professor Dernburg

GUESTS

COR welcomed the following guests to meetings in 2022-23:

Kathy Yelick, Vice Chancellor-Research (fall and spring)

Elizabeth Brashers, Assistant Vice Chancellor & Chief of Staff

Kairi Williams, Assistant Vice Chancellor for Research Administration & Compliance

Max Aufhammer, Division Vice Chair and Co-Chair of bureaucracy reform task force.

Andrea Lambert, Assistant Executive Vice Chancellor, Chief of Staff, and Co-Chair of bureaucracy reform task force.

Paula Milano, Executive Advisor, Office of the Vice Chancellor-Administration

Susan Stone, Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, School of Welfare

Victoria Plaut, Vice Provost for the Faculty

Lisa García Bedolla, Vice Provost for Graduate Studies and Dean of the Graduate Division

Ben Hermalin, Executive Vice Chancellor and Provost

Chris Yetter, Senior Advisor to the Provost

Chris Stanich, Associate Vice Chancellor of Financial Planning & Analysis
Kevin Mack, Divisional Finance Leader and Training & Engagement Manager, Finance Division
David Castellanos, Budget Director
Felix Fischer, Chair of Committee on Courses of Instruction (COCI)

MEMBERS OF THE 2022-23 COMMITTEE ON RESEARCH

Lia Fernald, Public Health (Chair)
Pieter Abbeel, EECS
Jennifer Ahern, Public Health – spring only
Ana Claudia Arias, EECS
Ernesto Dal Bó, Business/Public Policy – fall only
Abby Dernburg, MCB
Todd Hickey, Ancient Greek and Roman Studies
Susanna Elm, History – spring only serving as UCORP representative
Michael Hutchings, Mathematics – fall only
Michel Laguerre, African American Studies
Emily Ozer, Public Health – fall only
Diego Pirillo, Italian Studies
Eran Rabani, Chemistry
Jón Steinsson, Economics
Emily Zazulia, Music
Dimitrios Zekkos, CEE – fall only

In addition, Division Chair Mary Ann Smart served as an ex-officio member, and Division Vice Chair Max Auffhammer and Associate Vice Chancellor-Research Linda Rugg attended meetings as invited guests.