

BERKELEY DIVISION OF THE ACADEMIC SENATE
Committee on Research
2023-24 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 2023-24 academic year. The committee was chaired by Professor Lia Fernald (Public Health). COR held all meetings in person.

ORGANIZED RESEARCH UNITS (ORUs)

Associate Vice Chancellor-Research, Linda Rugg, stepped down from her position as AVCR. Professor Robert Price, served as interim AVCR for the fall 2023 term. The new Associate Vice Chancellor-Research, Lok Siu, 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 new Academic Personnel Manual (APM) section 672, policy on the Negotiated Salary Trial Program (NSTP)*
- *Endorsement for Chancellor's Advisory Committee for Life Sciences (CACLS) to the University Office of the President and campus leadership regarding concerns about the impact of the 2022 UAW contract settlement with graduate students, postdocs, and academic researchers*
- *Interim Report of the Academic Planning Council Workgroup on the Future of Doctoral Education at the University of California*
- *Proposed Presidential Policy BFB-BUS-50: Controlled Substances Use in Research and Teaching*
- *Proposed Academic Senate Statement on UC Quality*

CONSULTATION ON RESEARCH POLICY

Vice Chancellor-Research Kathy Yelick joined the COR meeting during the fall 2023 and spring 2024 and highlighted the top components of the VCRO (Vice Chancellor for Research Office), focusing on several key areas. Under *Excellence*, VCR Yelick emphasized the importance of fund-raising as a core strength. The discussion on *Infrastructure* included the vital roles of animal facilities, computing, and IT resources. VCR Yelick outlined efforts to improve *Administration*, including a streamlined interface for better coordination between the Sponsored Projects Office (SPO), Berkeley Regional Services (BRS), and Contracts and Grants Administration. Additionally, she highlighted the need for clarity in roles and responsibilities, particularly in community-engaged research. In terms of *Entrepreneurship*, UC Berkeley was recognized as a top university in this area, with considerations to use income from incubators to fund infrastructure and VCRO units, including Organized Research Units (ORUs).

VCR Yelick also pointed to UC Berkeley's "superpowers" in social responsibility, with the university taking a lead in addressing societal and scientific grand challenges, such as partnerships with LBNL, UCSF, and NASA Ames, and in fields like climate and environmental justice, health-related research, computational and precision health, biosciences, and data sciences.

Regarding collaboration with the Committee on Research (COR), VCR Yelick discussed the potential for VCRO advising and consulting with COR, especially on international collaborations with "countries of concern" and navigating policies affected by federal legislation. She also welcomed COR's input on topical committees, including the Chancellor's Advisory Committees for Life Sciences and Math & Physical Sciences, while noting ongoing challenges with deferred maintenance issues.

COR members discussed potential working groups. Three internal task forces were created to tackle current challenges in research for faculty at Berkeley. The topics for the task forces were proposed by committee members. These task forces conducted their work between COR meetings and convened during parts of the larger meetings. The tasks forces were Research Administration, Arts and Humanities, and Computing/Storage. The work from each task force is cumulated into a letter highlighting the concerns regarding research among faculty and recommending ways to address the issues to campus administration.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

COR also discussed the following issues:

- New chancellor search- COR members discussed what qualities they want in a Chancellor.

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) — Larry Karp

GUESTS

COR welcomed the following guests to meetings in 2023-24:

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

Elizabeth Brashers, Assistant Vice Chancellor & Chief of Staff

Robert Price Interim Associate Vice Chancellor for Research

Lok Siu, Associate Vice Chancellor-Research

Tiff Dressen, Project Policy Analyst - Vice Chancellor Research Office

Henry Chan, Contracts and Grants Manager - Berkeley Regional Services

John Kubiawicz - Professor of Electrical Engineering and Computer Sciences and Computing and Information Technology Chair

Ben Hermalin, Executive Vice Chancellor and Provost

Chris Yetter, Senior Advisor to the Provost

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

Gül Dölen, Professor, Department of Psychology, Berkeley Center for the Science of Psychedelics, and Helen Wills Neuroscience Institute

Ken Lutz, Director of Research IT and Chief Research Technology Officer

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

MEMBERS OF THE 2023-24 COMMITTEE ON RESEARCH

Lia Fernald, Public Health (Chair)

Pieter Abbeel, Electrical Engineering and Computer Sciences – fall only

Jennifer Ahern, Public Health – spring only
Ana Claudia Arias, Electrical Engineering and Computer Sciences
Abby Dernburg, Molecular and Cell Biology
Penelope Edwards, South and Southeast Asian Studies
Larry Karp, Agricultural and Resource Economics
Michel Laguerre, African American Studies
Emily Ozer, Public Health – spring only
Diego Pirillo, Italian Studies
Sameer Srivastava, Business
Emily Zazulia, Music
Dimitrios Zekkos, Civil and Environmental Engineering
Maciej Zworski, Mathematics

In addition, Division Chair Max Auffhammer served as an ex-officio member, and Division Vice Chair Amani Nuru-Jeter and Interim Associate Vice Chancellor-Research Robert Price (fall only) and the new Associate Vice Chancellor-Research Lok Siu (spring) attended meetings as invited guests.