Chairs’ & Center Directors’ Meeting Minutes

Date: April 12, 2017
Location: WCH – Room 443
Attendees:
Reza Abbaschian
Guillermo Aguilar
Alex Balandin
Matt Barth
Mitch Boretz
Jay Farrell
Xiaoping Hu
Ashok Mulchandani
Nosang Myung
Walid Najjar
Ravi
Tom Stahovich
Vassilis Tsotras
Kambiz Vafai
Sharon Walker
Jun Wang

Absent:
Bir Bhanu
Marek Chrobak
Marko Princevac
Albert Wang

1. Welcome – Sharon
No items were added to the agenda.

2. Session with Chancellor Kim Wilcox
The following items were discussed during Chancellor Wilcox’s session:
- UCR’s annual giving has increased to $30M (from $22M); there are now 54 endowed chairs at UCR, an increase of about 33%; a fund raising focus will be to generate more student scholarship funding.
- Maria Anguiano will be replaced by Matt Hull and Jeff Kaplan on an interim basis. Also, Barbara Lloyd’s consulting contract (for PPP efforts, etc) has been expanded. Kim has asked for search committee recommendations from the Academic Senate. A replacement for Maria is expected to be hired by the end of summer 2017.
- A five-year review is being initiated for Mike Pazzani. This review is expected to be completed by the end of the current Spring quarter. Kim expects that Mike’s oversight of A&E and Facilities will not continue in the long-term.
- Kim had no update on the search for a new Provost. Cindy will serve as Interim Provost through AY 17/18 and perhaps longer.
- SIF funding is being used for (one-time) deferred maintenance projects this year. Kim expected that additional SIF funding will be available next year but this decision is up to the Provost.
- Detailed budgets are available for all UCR academic and non-academic units. It was unclear if these budgets are on UCR’s website.
- Some UCR freshman applicants were given wrong admission information. Correct information has been sent to these applicants. UCR had fewer of these problems than many other UC campuses.
- UCR has historically done better attracting international undergraduates than attracting domestic non-residents. UCR will be targeting specific cities and high schools and will be using financial aid offers to attract more domestic non-resident applicants. Kim feels that UCR could appeal to non-resident students of color but it will be a long process to generate this appeal.
- The BCOE Dean search is expected to start in Summer 2017. Chairs stressed that planning and documentation should be started soon that the search isn’t rushed.
- Kim stated that the Provost is in charge of cluster hiring but he believes that Cindy wants to slow down this process. However, she feels that existing cluster hiring commitments need to be met.

3. Approval of Minutes from March 17, 2017 Meeting - Pat
The revised minutes of the March 17th meeting were unanimously approved.

4. Graduate Education – Ravi
Ravi noted the grad student application summary attached to the agenda. There are 80 PhD SIR’s to date. Another 83 PhD applicants have yet to decide. Ravi stressed that program grad advisors and grad assistants should contact these undecided applicants as soon as possible. Also, grad applicants can still be submitted through Ravi to the Grad Division for approval. There are 10 MS SIR’s to date but it’s too early to estimate the final number of incoming MS students. Ravi will have firmer numbers at the next Chairs/Directors meeting. Next, Ravi called attention to the chart attached to the agenda that presents Quarters to PhD and MS degrees by BCOE Cohorts after 2005. PhD completion varied by program from 15.6 quarters (MSE) to 18.7 quarters (BIEN). This analysis is based on four quarters per year. It is unclear how many PhD students entered each program with an MS degree. Overall, BCOE’s PhD completion rate is about 80% which is high.
On a related topic, there are six Grad Division Dean candidates. These candidates are being interviewed by the search committee today. It is expected that there will be 3-4 finalists. These finalists will make vision statement presentations.

5. Undergraduate Education – Marko
Marko was unavailable for this meeting. However, it was noted that BCOE programs do not know how many incoming freshman they will have to deal with. Sharon will distribute the latest incoming freshman data to all BCOE programs by the end of this week. Also, it was noted that classroom space is becoming a limitation and that renovations should be prioritized to increase classroom capacity. Sharon reported that since many classrooms are being renovated this summer, Summer Session has asked to schedule summer classes in Bourns A265 and WCH
205/206. Before we respond, Sharon asked that BCOE departments/programs that need these rooms for summer seminars and meetings book these uses as soon as possible.

6. Senate Updates – Tom
Tom reported that there were no Academic Senate updates.

7. Dean’s Updates – Sharon
Sharon encouraged chairs to attend the 5/30/17 CAP meeting to discuss best practices, etc. Sharon reported that UCR’s new Construction Manager, John Casey, has offered to provide initial estimates of lab renovations for incoming faculty hires on an as-needed basis. There will be a (free) webinar series for faculty interested in working with industry partners. A BCOE representative for the Academic Senate’s Committee on Committees is needed. The nomination deadline is 4/13/17. Tom Stahovich agreed to be nominated for the Academic Senate’s Vice Chair position.

8. Department Updates
MSOL: Kambiz reported that the number of MSOL graduates is increasing and that these graduates have high GPAs.

ME: Guillermo stated that the department’s Target of Excellence faculty candidate declined the department’s offer. The department is now pursuing a PDEF candidate.

WCGEC: Reza noted his recent email that alerted faculty to NASA’s interest in receiving input on the health impacts of space travel.

ECE: Jay noted that he (and other EE faculty at other universities) didn’t receive a postcard from USN&WR asking for ranking input this year. The Dean’s Office will follow up on this issue.

Data Science: Vassilis reported that it appears that this year’s three Data Science cluster hires will be going to CNAS.

CSE: Walid indicated that the department will be voting on the latest Cybersecurity cluster hire candidate today.

MSE: Ashok noted that three MSE grad students will be receiving NSF Fellowships. An announcement will be added to MSE’s website.

CNSE: Alex stated that the joint vision report of the two CNSE committees have issued its report. Also, last week’s Robert Haddon memorial conference was successful.

SHINES: Alex stated that the next SHINES meeting will be held in August in San Diego to discuss the grant’s renewal submission.

BIEN: Xiaoping reported that the department interviewed about 12 faculty candidates this year. The department will be voting on non-cluster hire appointments next week and cluster hire appointments in about two weeks. Also, Prof. Ghosh was recently notified that his NIH proposal
is likely to be funded. An R01 award at this stage in his career is an accomplishment. Also, Prof. Anvari’s grad student, Joshua Burns has been selected as a winner of the “I’m a UC Entrepreneur” campaign from UCR.

CE-CERT: Matt reported that the recent PEMS Conference at CE-CERT was successful and attracted over 200 attendees. A Renewable Energy event is scheduled for May 17th and a conference honoring Leon Billings, the author of the Clean Air Act, is scheduled for May 12th.

9. New Items
Pat reminded participants that this year’s staff performance evaluation process is using new (very detailed) forms and will include a calibration step for all BCOE staff evaluations. These campus changes are in response to a new UCOP policy. The calibration step will be performed by BCOE department/center FAOs. Pat encouraged participants to include enough detail in performance evaluations to enable this calibration step to succeed. Also, he stated that he hoped that this calibration step would not significantly increase or decrease department merit pool allocations but this is not certain at this time.
Chairs' & Center Directors' Meeting
April 12, 2017

Agenda

Winston Chung Hall – Room 443

1. Welcome
   Sharon

2. Session with Chancellor Kim Wilcox
   Pat

3. Approval of Minutes from March 17, 2017 Meeting
   Ravi

4. Graduate Education
   Marko

5. Undergraduate Education
   Tom

6. Senate Updates
   Sharon

7. Dean’s Updates
   Chairs/Directors

8. Department Updates

9. New Items

NOTE: Next meeting date is Monday, April 24, 2017

Future Meeting Dates - 2017
April 24 (M)
May 8 (M), 22 (M)
June 5 (M), 16 (F)
### PhD Applicants

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