May 23, 2024

TO: Sang-Hee Lee, Chair  
Riverside Division of the Academic Senate

FROM: Wesley Leonard, Chair  
CHASS Executive Committee

RE: Consultation: Transparency in Establishment and Operation of Centers

The CHASS Executive Committee reviewed and discussed the Consultation: Transparency in Establishment and Operation of Centers at the Regular meeting on May 15, 2024. The committee recognizes the need for transparency and updating the UCR Operating Principles for Research Centers, highlighting a consistent review structure that would not be compromised with personnel turnover. Although we are supportive of the establishment of these Operating Principles, we request that the following issues be addressed:

Questions:
1. Beyond addressing issues identified during a formal review in relation to specified campus metrics, what is the mechanism to ensure broader accountability in Centers, and to respond if people involved with those Centers raise concerns? What is the plan to ensure that the campus administration will be accountable to Centers, for example, in terms of providing adequate staff support and following through with any promises that have been made?
2. What are the policies guiding Research Centers? We believe there should be more clarification on the review procedures and on processes for resolving issues.
3. Peer review may be beneficial for some of the Centers. It appears that the review process is done at the administrative level, and we suggest that this should also include the academic level.
4. What are the policies for creating and reviewing councils such as the Council for Intellectual Values & Inclusive Community?
Editorial comments:

5. Some information in “Research Centers at UC Riverside” is incorrect; for instance, the final four entries in the list have the wrong director names.

6. Part II (“Establishment of Academic Research Centers”) of the proposed Operating Principles reads “They still need formal approval from the corresponding dean.” Given that it is possible for an Academic Research Center to involve more than one College or School, we believe the reference should be to “the corresponding dean(s)”.