



UNIVERSITY of HAWAI'I
MĀNOA

MĀNOA FACULTY SENATE

May 15th, 2023

To: Mānoa Faculty Senate Executive Committee

From: Sloan Coats, Chair

Re: Committee on Research - Spring Report 2023

Committee members included:

Sloan Coats (Chair), Kevin Nute (Vice-Chair, Fall), Johann Urschitz (Vice-Chair, Spring), Roger Chen (Secretary), Rachel Lentz, Jelena Maricic, Dongping Zheng, Jian Zhou, and Michelle Tallquist (SEC Liaison).

The Chair thanks the Committee and its officers for their service.

COR met on the following dates: January 25th, March 2nd, & April 12th of 2023.

During the Spring 2023 semester, the committee addressed the following issues and items:

- Finalized recommended changes to the campus postdoctoral policy revisions after discussion (in Fall 2022) with the UHM campus-wide postdoctoral committee, the VPRS, and the VPRI.
- Reviewed the ForagerOne information system for the campus UROP.
- Discussed proposed policy changes from the SCR 201 working group, supported a letter (with CAB and CPM) requesting that the working group be reconvened and the process restarted, and planned (work that is still in progress) for how to solicit feedback from campus constituents.
- Discussed the issue of potential self-plagiarism when publishing work that is also included in a dissertation.

Issue(s) Completed:

January 25th, 2023

- Finalized response letter to the UHM campus-wide postdoctoral committee summarizing the recommendations from COR on the revised campus postdoctoral policy.
- Reviewed information that will be included in the ForagerOne system for the campus UROP, including how (and for whom) this information will be publicized.

March 2nd, 2023

- Discussed the issue of potential self-plagiarism in dissertations, for instance, in the case that a dissertation includes already published work or work that will be published in the future. Although this issue was deemed important, we decided that it could be addressed at some time in the future (see also below).

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April 12th, 2023

- Discussed proposed changes to executive policies from the SCR 201 working group. Outlined a path forward to addressing these proposed changes with other MFS committees (CAB and CPM). Discussed how best to solicit feedback from campus constituents. The process is ongoing and we expect that it will be of primary importance and some urgency to the Fall 2023 COR (see also below).

Issue(s) Under Review:

A list of issues pending further review for the 2023-24 incoming members and any next step(s) or recommendations regarding that issue.

1. Proposed changes from the SCR 201 working group

- a. COR members attended a meeting organized by CAB with Dr. Halbert of the SCR 201 working group and the UHPA director about the proposed changes. In the aftermath of the meeting CAB, CPM, and COR came to the consensus that the proposed changes have major issues, that the process by which they were created is fundamentally flawed, and that the faculty are not sufficiently knowledgeable about these issues to provide a meaningful response to the proposals. Given that consensus, the committees (led by CAB) sent a letter to the SCR 201 working group to request that the process be restarted with a newly reconvened working group that includes representation from faculty and unit leadership. In response, the SCR 201 working group extended the timeline for feedback on the proposed changes until Fall 2023 and promised to provide a white paper that outlines the process by which these proposed changes were made. While these are welcome developments, at this stage we do not have the white paper and thus have not finalized the process by which feedback on the proposed changes will be solicited from campus constituents. The chairs and some members of CAB, CPM, and COR are planning to meet over the summer to continue this work, but it is unlikely that it will be finished by the time that Fall 2023 MFS committees are in place. We expect that issues surrounding SCR 201 will require some urgency from the Fall 2023 MFS committees as the new timeline includes deadlines towards the beginning of the semester (October).
- b. Potential resources for COR to work with: CAB, CPM, UHPA, unit leadership.

2. Potential self-plagiarism in dissertations

- a. While we have not been alerted to any instances at UHM of this being an issue, the potential that it could be an issue was brought to our attention by Dr. Potemra (MFS senator from SOEST). There do not appear to be formal policies at the campus or unit level regarding the process by which dissertation work is published. Formalizing these policies thus could prove useful, although expectations are different across units and so it may not be feasible to have a unified policy at the campus level.
- b. Potential resources for COR to work with: Dr. Potemra, unit leadership, and UHM graduate division.

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