The University of California, Berkeley
Vice Chancellor for Research
Position Description

The University of California, Berkeley is one of the world’s premier research and teaching universities. It is consistently rated among the top institutions in the world for the quality and breadth of its research and teaching, for the scholarly distinction of its faculty, for the excellence of its Ph.D. programs and for the amount of funding received for support of its research programs. In FY 2017, the Berkeley campus received more than $800M in research support from external sources. Complementing a strong foundation of support from public and philanthropic sources, Berkeley also has robust relationships with industry, with over 1,300 corporate research sponsors, over 17 industry affiliate programs, and industry-sponsored research expenditures of over $82M annually. As of FY2017 Berkeley has more than 689 U.S. and 677 foreign patents; over 600 products have been commercialized by companies under IP licenses from Berkeley.

Departmental Overview

Berkeley’s core research community is made up of some 1,500 full-time ladder-rank faculty, 10,500 graduate students and approximately 1,500 post-doctoral fellows who come from around the world to participate in the research of our academic departments, laboratories, and research centers. Many undergraduate students also participate in the campus’s cutting-edge research, either as part of their coursework or as research and laboratory assistants. In addition, there is a vast infrastructure of staff and non-faculty researchers who support the University’s research enterprise. This enterprise takes form in the University’s 130 academic departments and in its numerous research institutes, centers, museums and field stations. Moreover, Berkeley researchers enjoy great synergies with the Department of Energy and Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory (LBNL), located adjacent to the campus.

Position Summary

Reporting directly to the Chancellor and the Executive Vice Chancellor and Provost (EVCP), this key leadership position is primarily responsible for research policy, planning and administration for the Berkeley campus. The Vice Chancellor for Research (VCR) ensures Berkeley's leading position among research and teaching universities by sustaining an effective environment for faculty and student research, while enhancing their entrepreneurial opportunities. The VCR is also charged with fostering close cooperative relationships with academic deans to support research conducted in the schools, colleges, and divisions, in addition to direct management of formally organized institutes, centers, and programs that report to the VCR. S/he has the responsibility to attract and facilitate the receipt and administration of research funding and support; to oversee and ensure compliance of campus research with federal, state and university policies and regulations; and to support the broad dissemination of the results of campus research efforts to the public through various means of outreach, including web sites and news reports, and to private industry through technology transfer.

The VCR works collaboratively with campus leadership and faculty to define Berkeley’s broad research vision within and across disciplines, departments, colleges and schools. This vision encourages the creation of innovative new programs including interdisciplinary research and is not limited by institutional nor organizational boundaries. Said vision also encourages diversity and inclusion across all levels of the campus research enterprise. The VCR defines and oversees the implementation of UCB’s research strategic plan, which is comprehensive and reflects the
fact that at Berkeley research is carried out in every academic unit of the campus. The effectiveness of the research endeavor is managed through a structure that provides regular reviews of programs, research units, museums and research support units as a basis for realignment of programs through attrition and growth. This ensures that Berkeley’s research excellence across all disciplines is maintained and responsive to both opportunities and changes in scholarship and direction.

The VCR has line management responsibilities for Organized Research Units (ORUs) including over forty institutes and centers, eight research museums and science centers, nine remote research field stations and other sites, and administrative and compliance units such as the Office of Intellectual Property & Industry Research Alliances, the Research Administration and Compliance office (including offices managing research contracts and grants, animal and human subject protections, export control compliance, and conflict of interest reviews), the Office of Laboratory Animal Care, the Berkeley International Office, the Berkeley Research Development Office, and the Visiting Scholar and Postdoc Affairs Office. The VCR also oversees the research-related standing committees, including eight research compliance committees. These management responsibilities include programmatic direction, long-range and strategic planning, budgetary control, and academic and staff personnel management. In FY 2016, the VCR division had a central budget of $56 million, total unit headcount of 1,985 employees and 1,250 affiliates, and annual expenditures of $307 million.

The VCR provides leadership in a range of research-related activities at the campus, system-wide and national levels. The VCR serves on the Chancellor’s senior leadership team and is a liaison to the campus Academic Senate, including the Committees on Research, Faculty Awards, and Academic Planning and Resource Allocation (CAPRA). System-wide, the VCR represents Berkeley on panels such as the Council of Vice Chancellors for Research. The VCR works closely with the Vice Provost for the Faculty on issues related to the recruitment and retention of quality faculty researchers. The VCR works closely with the Associate Vice Chancellor for Information Technology/Chief Information Officer on strategic and policy issues surrounding academic and research computing and infrastructure enhancement. The VCR may represent the Chancellor or EVCP on committees that address issues relating to the UCB research endeavor including infrastructure, fundraising, budget, and policy areas. The VCR oversees the campus’s close research partnership and administrative interface with the LBNL. Finally, the VCR regularly represents Berkeley before a variety of external stakeholders, including federal funding agencies, non-profit and for-profit grant-making organizations, regulatory institutions, and the press.

Responsibilities

Leadership

- With guidance from the EVCP, work across campus with deans, chairs, research directors, and faculty in the development and implementation of the research vision element of campus strategies.
- Support faculty-led research by creating opportunities, building community, and collaboratively leading programs that catalyze and promote world-class researchers and their work.
- Provide leadership for both the over 3,000 staff and affiliates who are in a direct reporting line to the VCR and other campus researchers that together comprise the campus-wide research enterprise.
- Evaluate campus research endeavors and collaborate across campus to develop a
programmatic and organizational structure that supports the UCB research vision and strategic plan while prioritizing resources; this includes overseeing the review process for research units and programs.

- Provide campus, system-wide, national and international leadership in the areas of research direction, program development, and policy.
- Act as spokesperson for the campus on national and international issues and policies in the research arena with a goal of making directional impact on resource deployment and policy development nationally and internationally.
- Represent the campus in meetings and legislative hearings in support of campus research priorities and issues.

Financial Management and Stewardship

- Oversee the operating budget of the Office of the Vice Chancellor for Research, which in FY 2016 consisted of $56 million, and annual $307 million dollar expenditures for the entire division.
- Play a critical role in identifying, soliciting, and attracting funding to support programs that align with the UCB research vision and strategic plan. Work closely with University Development and Alumni Relations, Government and Community Relations, deans, and other major stakeholders to collaborate on fundraising strategies in support of the UCB research endeavor. In FY 2016 sponsored research totaled $673.9M for the campus and $164.8M for the Office of the Vice Chancellor for Research.
- In consultation with the Chancellor and EVCP, oversee the use of funds in support of research and help strategically invest in research activities and facilities.
- Work closely with the Office of Government and Community Relations to collaborate on government relations priorities and strategies in support of federal, state, and international research funding to strengthen relationships with federal and state government bodies as well as international funders.
- Oversee the UCB technology transfer and industrial liaison programs that support Berkeley’s research enterprise by fostering collaborations among researchers, entrepreneurs and private industry to speed innovation and commercialization. Currently, licensing and industry sponsored research combined generate an average of $90 million annually.

Management

- Provide oversight to multidisciplinary research units reporting to the VCR that cross college, school or institutional boundaries, as well as to independent research units including organized research units, multi-campus research units, centers, institutes, museums, field stations, and programs and new initiatives.
- Oversee and coordinate the UCB-LBNL relationship including the development of joint programs and policy/procedures to manage the interactions between the two institutions.
- Assess campus research facilities, technology, infrastructure, and resources including capacity, structure and quality. Develop strategies for filling gaps, restructuring and maintaining these resources and facilities as state-of-the-art.
- Serve on system-wide meetings of the Council of Vice-Chancellors for Research (COVCR) and represent the campus’s interest in the development of multi-campus, system-wide research efforts and policy development.

Compliance with Standards of Excellence for Ethics, Integrity, and Law
• Oversee and enhance the campus infrastructure including the units that support the research endeavor such as the Research Administration and Compliance office, Intellectual Property & Industry Research Alliances office, and the Berkeley Research Development Office to ensure that UC Berkeley is well positioned to continue generating significant research revenue.
• Provide oversight of UCB research compliance activities, including eight research compliance committees.
• Ensure compliance with scientific misconduct regulations and provide leadership in campus policy.

Qualifications

The ideal candidate must be a current member of the Berkeley Division of the Academic Senate and must hold the rank of Professor. The ideal candidate will be distinguished scholar and research leader from any academic field who has:

• A demonstrated commitment to, and proven track record of, excellence in research (including interdisciplinary research) and academic service roles that support colleagues.
• A demonstrated commitment to advancing diversity, equity, and inclusion in the research environment for academics, staff, and students.
• A proven record of achievement in building, enhancing, and sustaining excellent research programs.
• Demonstrated experience in securing major research funding, including for interdisciplinary projects and as a champion for programs outside her or his domain of scientific expertise.
• A strong desire and cultivated talent for working collaboratively with the Academic Senate, deans, and chairs to integrate research into the university’s teaching mission.
• A commitment to the highest integrity in research ethics.
• An understanding of the legislative, regulatory, and public policy environment impacting research.

The ideal candidate will be an experienced, skilled, entrepreneurial and astute administrator with:

• A breadth of background knowledge essential to understanding the multitude of disciplines and highly complex nature of Berkeley.
• An ability to provide intellectual leadership to Berkeley’s broad research community, to enable and facilitate research, identify visionary new research activities, and bring together for collaboration the appropriate talent and resources.
• A demonstrated ability to lead and advance the research objectives of the Berkeley campus in a highly decentralized environment with shared accountability at multiple levels.
• A demonstrated ability to lead complex organizational and funding processes effectively to achieve support for research goals, including developing new pathways for entrepreneurial efforts.
• A proven record of developing ways to fund research.
• A proven ability at management of research infrastructure and compliance while enabling and facilitating research.
• Excellent skills in communicating to a wide range of internal and external audiences that include listening, speaking, writing, and presenting.