
Monthly Campus Buyers Meeting
September 7, 2016, 1:30 – 3:00 pm
Phone/Web Only

Procurement Services Department Attendees:

Karen Meade, Stephanie Shafer, Todd Harris, Kristi Morales, Jackie Mendez, Ken Masasso

1. Welcome and Introductions

Karen welcomed all attendees on the call and had the Procurement Services staff “introduce” themselves on the phone.

2. Zoom

Karen reminded staff that Zoom will be coming soon to UC Merced. Zoom is the new UC (systemwide) phone/web conferencing tool that will be replacing ReadyTalk in the near future. Zoom was awarded a systemwide agreement by UCOP Procurement Services as a result of a competitive bid. Therefore, all campuses are transitioning from ReadyTalk to Zoom. Based on the campus’ existing usage of ReadyTalk, it is estimated that the contract with Zoom will result in over \$2 million system-wide once all campuses are transitioned. Besides ReadyTalk being much more expensive, it is important to note that ReadyTalk would not agree to comply with the UC's privacy and security policies. IT will spearhead the rollout of Zoom; this is anticipated to be within the next few weeks. A notice will be issued by IT to ReadyTalk users with more details. IT is actually absorbing the cost for all faculty and staff Zoom accounts. (Yes, it's THAT affordable - only \$9.99/YEAR/user! My ReadyTalk bill last MONTH alone was \$60 – that would pay for 6 YEARS of Zoom.) Not only is Zoom less expensive, Zoom is the current leader in voice and video meetings today and is very intuitive and user-friendly. Their service/offerings beat ReadyTalk's as well as others, such as Go to Meeting and Webex. There is even a Zoom app for your phone.

3. Reimbursement Requests

Karen reminded staff that approved reimbursements need to be submitted to UCLA via “N” class orders (<http://procurement.ucmerced.edu/information-campus-customers/training-materials>). She still needs to approve requests over \$500.

4. Temporary Commodity Assignments

Karen informed campus buyers that Terry Thun has been on leave since mid-August. In the interim, all other buyers are covering his standard commodities, such as scientific/academic, auxiliaries, etc. If anyone has status inquiries, please submit your inquiry to procurement@ucmerced.edu.

5. Emphasis on Multi-Year Blanket POs

Karen asked all department buyers to evaluate their respective areas' needs and submit requests for multi-year agreements wherever it makes sense. Doing so will enable all Procurement Services staff to establish agreements just once in several years and allows more autonomy within the departments – a “win-win” for the campus as a whole.

6. Updates to Ordering Software

Todd Harris updated all on the changes being made to the software ordering process to help make it more streamlined. He has been working with Kent Carpenter, Director of IT Service Management and PMO. This is a work in progress and has not fully been rolled out yet, but all will be notified when it is completed.

7. Roundtable

All were invited to bring up any additional topics or questions for discussion prior to close of meeting.

Karen Meade called the meeting to an end at 3 pm.