MINUTES
Committee on Research
November 20, 2012

Present:, Elisabeth Cameron, David Koo, Sri Kurniawan, Deborah Letourneau, Debra Lewis, Barbara Rogoff, Fitnat Yildiz, Andrew Smith (GSA), Mary-Beth Harhen (Senate Director), Matt Robinson (Committee Analyst)

Absent with Notice: Scott Oliver (chair), Nathaniel Deutsch

Committee Business
In Chair Oliver's absence, Elisabeth Cameron served as Chair Pro Tem.

NFRG Adjudication
The committee adjudicated seven grant applications from new faculty. All applications were found to have permissible expenses and all seven were approved for full funding.

FRG/SRG Application
The committee decided to remove a question from the FRG/SRG application that asks faculty their plans to fund their proposal in the event of partial COR funding. The remainder of the application was approved for the 2012-13 Call.

Review of Office of Research Self-study
COR was asked to review the self-study of the Office of Research, which has been done in preparation for the External Review of the office in 2013. COR reviewed the stakeholder survey that was sent to over 500 faculty and staff around campus. All COR members were invited to complete the survey and though some COR members began the survey, none completed it. The committee was disappointed with the survey and did not understand what data it would yield, as most of the questions required qualitative narrative answers.

COR plans to set aside time during a future meeting to discuss the self-study more thoroughly. The current version of the self-study is missing the survey response data, which, according to the Office of Research, will be available by the end of November. In anticipation of COR's review of the self-study, the committee members plan to work with their departments and colleagues to gather feedback on interactions with the Office of Research.

Due to the attention COR plans to give to the self-study review, the committee will ask for an extension on the response time. COR will also consult with Vice Chancellor of Research (VCR) Margon in its next meeting and will request the raw results of the stakeholder survey.

Systemwide Review of Proposed Open Access Policy
COR was asked to comment on the proposed Open Access Policy developed by the University Committee on Library and Scholarly Communication (UCOLASC). The policy would expand open access to research publications by University of California faculty by changing the default relationship between faculty authors and scholarly publishers to one in which authors grant the University a non-exclusive license to the work. The proposed policy would also require that authors deposit a digital copy of the final version of their published works with the California Digital Library.

Issues were raised about disciplines that use images in publications. Copyright holders of these images charge annual fees for use of the images if the article is available in an open access database. The opt-out component of the proposed policy mitigates this issue, but this would force faculty in certain disciplines to go against the university paradigm and obtain a license waiver for every article with copyrighted images. Another issue raised was the quality of open access journals. Some fields have seen the genesis of multiple open access journals that are less rigorous in accepting scholarly work than traditional journals.

A major goal of this policy is to pressure large, for-profit journals to lower or eliminate subscription fees. Individual faculty can have little effect on this issue but the policy would create a union-like effect. COR is concerned that publishers will simply shift the cost of publishing to individual faculty members via page charges, which are common in open access publications. The distinction was made between publishing in an open access journal, which often carries a page charge for faculty, and the provisions of this policy, which allows faculty to publish with whomever they choose but requires that they deposit an electronic copy of their article into a UC open access database. COR is concerned that the web interface for depositing articles and obtaining license waivers be as simple as possible for faculty.

Pre-Consultation for Deans Ladusaw and Koch

In preparation for the upcoming consultations with Deans Ladusaw and Koch, the committee discussed the amount of COR funding that has gone to the Humanities and Physical and Biological Sciences Divisions over the last five years. The committee also discussed the various research centers and initiatives supported by the two divisions. As a result of the consultation with Social Sciences Dean Kamieniecki, the committee decided to also inquire about the divisional plans to increase Ph.D. students and to solicit feedback about the divisional interactions with the Office of Research.

Consultation with Dean of Social Sciences Division Sheldon Kamieniecki

Dean Kamieniecki began by explaining that research in the Social Sciences division is spread out in terms of focus due to varied faculty passion and collaborative opportunities. When he is convinced that something presents a good opportunity, he encourages faculty to pursue it and provides resources if he is able. The budget cuts sustained by all divisions in the university have taken away Dean Kamieniecki's ability to provide discretionary funds as incentive to faculty to pursue external grants. Previously, he was able to offer $500 to $2,000 in discretionary funds for faculty that bring in large external grants and faculty have been greatly appreciative of these discretionary funds in the past.

COR asked what the committee could do to support research in the Social Sciences Division. Dean Kamieniecki admitted that he was not clear on the goals of COR or its mission to support faculty research. He identified travel support as one of the most important resources for his faculty members and noted his appreciation of the COR funds that have gone to his division over the last five years. He also noted the importance of discretionary funds for faculty. COR explained the recently updated FRG/SRG guidelines that loosened the funding restrictions for 2011-12 and Dean Kamieniecki stated that the fewer restrictions the better, at least for the FRGs

which are for low amounts. Finally, any COR grants that serve as seed funding are very important for the division and the university.

COR asked about the Social Sciences Division's relationship with the Office of Research. Dean Kamieniecki noted that the divisional business office has improved over the past seven years but the two research positions from the Office of Sponsored Projects (OSP) have been unstable in their ability to perform the job and interact with faculty in a helpful manner. The Social Sciences grant administration staff work on the implementation of grant funding while the two staff members from OSP provide support for grant applications. Dean Kamieniecki has moved the two offices into adjacent spaces in order to streamline grant support for his faculty. All grant-related staff ought to be centrally-located to increase efficiency.

Overall, there is a climate issue with OSP, as the divisional business staff see themselves more as police instead of assistants to faculty research. The campus overall is not flexible enough in working with faculty to obtain grants. Ideally grant administration would be a fun partnership and the hope is that the external review of the Office of Research and the hiring of a new Vice Chancellor of Research will help change the compliance climate.

The budget cuts sustained by the division have made it difficult to keep research centers going. The general rule is that new centers receive $25,000 a year for three years but after that they must be self-sustaining. With decreased support, fewer research centers will survive, meaning there will be less research overall. COR asked about south campus and the Center for Agroecology and Sustainable Food Systems (CASFS). The Social Sciences Division struggles to support this initiative but COR contends that the responsibility for supporting CASFS could shift to the campus. Dean Kamieniecki had not considered this shift, but feels that the farm fits best into the Social Sciences division because of the environmental implications and affiliations with Social Sciences disciplines. The external review of UC Agriculture and Natural Resources (ANR) pointed out that more support is needed for sustainable and organic systems. The external review further recommended that more money be allocated to the farm but budget cuts have eliminated the money available for this support. Dean Kamieniecki has worked with UCSC Chancellor Blumenthal on this issue and will pursue funds as soon as they are available.

COR inquired about the Social Sciences Divisions' plans to increase Ph.D. students to help meet the campus goal of 12% graduate enrollment. Dean Kamieniecki has been working with each department individually to discuss the capacity of Ph.D. programs. Increasing the graduate student population needs to be balanced with instructional needs and increasing grant funding. The support for graduate students has dried up and it is difficult to fundraise for graduate fellowships. Fee-based programs would help mitigate some of these funding difficulties.

Dean Kamieniecki concluded by reiterating the importance of the search for the new Vice Chancellor of Research. The candidate must be able to fundraise and build relationships in the community in support of the research of UCSC faculty.

The meeting adjourned at 4:00 pm