

MINUTES
Committee on Research
October 8, 2013

Present: Judith Habicht Mauche (chair), Pranav Anand, Yat Li, Jason Nielsen, Paul Roth, Matt Wagers, Steve Whittaker, Fitnat Yildiz, Matt Robinson (Committee Analyst)

Absent with Notice: Sharon Daniel

Committee Business

Chair Habicht Mauche provided a brief update from the Senate Executive Committee (SEC) discussion on the increased number of international undergraduate students at UCSC this year. The committee discussed the role research ought to play in the campus' internationalization plans and questioned what work has been done to move beyond undergraduate enrollment. COR will continue to follow this issue and will likely comment on the Assessment Report submitted by international consultant Ian Little.

The minutes from the September 24, 2013 COR meeting were approved with one minor change.

New Faculty Research Grants (NFRGs)

The call for NFRGs will go out on Wednesday, October 9th and applications are due on Friday, November 5th. The committee considered the award guidelines and clarified that COR supports research done in collaboration with graduate students, so long as the research is faculty-driven.

Consultation Planning for Divisional Deans

The committee reviewed the notes from the 2012-13 COR consultations with the divisional deans and discussed items for consultation in 2013-14. The primary topic would be the divisional use of the University Opportunity Funds (UOF). This is a topic raised by COR at the May 29, 2013 Senate meeting and the response from the divisions thus far has been vague. The committee agreed that it would be best to solicit the information from the deans' offices prior to inviting them to a consultation.

The committee also considered the deans' roles in the campus plans for graduate student growth. In 2012-13, the deans mostly indicated that they are waiting for plans from the Graduate Division and Graduate Dean Miller. COR agreed that the research mission at UCSC is largely built on graduate students and this must be part of the graduate growth conversation, as there is a link between graduate growth and research excellence. The committee also discussed the various ways the campus could provide long-term support for graduate students, such as training grant proposals aided by grant writers in the divisions. COR will invite Dean Miller to a future meeting to consult on the connections between graduate growth and research support.

Consultation with VCR Scott Brandt

COR asked about the impact of the government shutdown on the research enterprise of UCSC. VCR Brandt explained that the impact is felt most directly by University Affiliated Research Center (UARC) employees who work with NASA. Some of the ~140 employees are able to work but the majority are not. Another negative effect is the shutdown is the inaccessibility of

federal funding agencies. COR asked if these agencies will be shifting proposal deadlines in response to the shutdown and VCR Brandt responded that he is unsure. This situation has cast uncertainty on UCSC's application for an extension of the UARC contract.

COR asked about VCR Brandt's vision for COR input on funding decisions from the VCR office. He responded that he had the same question for COR. The Office of the VCR has ~\$400,000 a year to spend supporting research. These funds should not be permanently allocated to any faculty member or program, though he is open to using the funds to partially fund research supports such as grant proposal writers in some divisions. Currently there are four providers of research support that use the University Opportunity Fund: COR; VCR; EVC; and the divisions. VCR Brandt believes that perhaps these funds would be better distributed in fewer streams. Given an example where the VCR will match funds from the department and the division for a certain proposal, COR asked if this division of Opportunity Funds into three streams is arbitrary. VCR Brandt responded that this may be the case.

VCR Brandt explained that one major problem with internal research funding is that few faculty know who and how to ask for support. He asked COR to help publicize the availability of funding and how to request it. COR discussed ways to advertise these funding opportunities beyond the committee's FRG and SRG programs, including a comprehensive website to house all funding opportunities. COR advised VCR Brandt to set priorities for his available funds to reduce the ad-hoc nature he described.

COR asked about Office of Research (OR) support for training grants to aid in graduate student growth. VCR Brandt agreed that central support is needed for these big grants. COR discussed the ways the committee can work with the VCR to pull together available training grants and advertise them to the faculty. COR also asked about the possibility of returning a portion of the Indirect Cost Receipts (ICR) to the faculty members who earn the overhead generating grants. VCR Brandt responded that this is common at private universities but there is not precedent for it in the UC system.

COR and VCR Brandt continued exploring the creation of awards for outstanding Ph.D. dissertations. The undergraduate award system would provide a useful framework for this program. COR will pursue this idea with input from Graduate Council.

The meeting adjourned at 4:00 pm