

**Minutes
Committee on Research
September 30, 2008**

The Committee on Research (COR) met at 2 p.m. on Tuesday, September 30, 2008 in 307 Kerr Hall.

Present: Phokion Kolaitis, Chair, Donka Farkas, Donna Hunter, Judit Moschkovich, Holger Schmidt, Meg Wilson.

Absent with notice: Shaowei Chen, Carla Freccero, Sriram Shastry.

Members were introduced and the Chair introduced the work of the Committee through the Charge. The Chair had also met with Senate leadership who urged COR to become more proactive on research issues.

Chair Kolaitis gave an overview of issues and potential items facing COR this year beginning with items carrying forward from last year.

Last Spring, the Dean of Social Sciences invited COR's participation in the SS unit reviews of the Center for Agroecology and Sustainable Food Systems (CASFS) and the New Teacher Center (NTC). COR readily accepted suggesting a model similar to the Senate's participation in departmental external reviews and ORUs. COR member Donna Hunter agree to take the lead for the CASFS review and draft a COR response for discussion at the October 14th meeting.

A broader related issue is COR's concern that there are no clear processes across the divisions or formally involving COR in divisional research unit reviews and centers (apart from ORUs). With the Social Sciences Dean's invitation in the current reviews, COR could consult with the other academic deans to see if there exists willingness for COR's (and potentially CPB's) involvement for establishing review processes for divisional research units and centers. The COR Chair cited ASM Bylaw 13.27.2 1) in COR's charge supporting COR's role in this way.

Continuing business for COR is the transparency issue of the use of Indirect Cost Recovery (ICR) funds on this campus. While last year's COR consulted with the Chancellor and VC of Planning and Budget Meredith Michaels on how to understand the complexity of the issue to better frame the questions it sought clarification on, the Committee did not complete a draft letter to administration. CPB also has a continuing issue on research funding (see report issued to Senate 2007). The COR and CPB Chairs have discussed briefly the possibility of appointing a joint subcommittee to continue investigations together. The COR Chair also mentioned that, according to the 2007-08 Annual Report of UCOPR (the system-wide University Committee on Research Policy), UCORP and UCPB (the system-wide University Committee on Planning and Budget) have also spent a year or more unsuccessfully trying to gain an understanding how ICR flow from the Office of the President to the campuses.

As new issues, the Chair first suggested considering a forum on Intellectual Property Management. The complexities especially facing PB&S and Engineering faculty attempting to develop joint study agreements with industry can be frustrating. He thought perhaps an educational forum directed by OR's Acting Director of the Office of Management of Intellectual Property Vanessa Tollefson would be useful to faculty in these two divisions.

The Chair also suggested, to help the COR long-term interest in supporting, advocating and making research visible on campus, to establish a tradition of a Convocation on Research somewhat in the same spirit as the existing Convocation on Teaching. The VCR has endorsed the idea and would be willing to co-sponsor such an event. This event would recognize internally high-profile external research awards and recognition of UCSC faculty. This perhaps would be held in the fall term to honor and celebrate the achievements of the previous year. The existing *Currents* tributes of individual recognitions as they occur seem inadequate. One member encouraged reaching out to new faculty particularly to encourage attendance at these events to help build the culture of research strength and recognition at UCSC. Another member offered the possibility of an open event to the public as well.

Lastly, the Chair suggested that COR consider who the Committee would like to consult with this year in the meetings. Suggestions included the Director of the Office of Sponsored Projects to better understand the role, volume and expectations of OSP services to faculty. Likewise, a visit with the Acting Director of the Office of Management of Intellectual Property for general information and perhaps helping organize the needs that an IP Forum could meet. Finally, since the campus has a new Associate Vice Chancellor for Public Affairs and Communications in the division of University Relations, Barry Shiller, the Chair suggested consultation with him as well.

The Chair then invited members to contribute ideas for COR's agenda this year. One member suggested an event focused just for new faculty on the presence of research in a UCSC professor's UCSC life. COR discussed inconclusively if this was better done by divisions than COR. Senate staff will collect information on new faculty orientation and the "Survival Handbook" to see what these cover.

A member of COR not present at the meeting will be contacted for availability to be the COR representative to the monthly Information Technology Committee (ITC) meetings.

Member Donna Hunter will be the COR representative to accompany CPB members on a Silicon Valley Center-UARC field trip on the morning of October 16th.

The deadline for applications for New Faculty Research Grant applications is October 8. COR will review the applications received and make decisions during a future COR meeting.

Consultation with VCR Bruce Margon

Introductions were made around the members and the VCR introduced himself and spoke about his academic background and experience and former liaisons with the new VP of Research and Graduate Studies Steve Beckwith at UCOP. He distributed an organization chart and discussed his plans for hiring and budget maintenance in the light of primarily administrative budget cuts this year. The Office of Sponsored Projects (OSP) is comparatively small (12 people, less FTE than that) considering they handle 1000 proposals both coming in and going out each year representing \$133 million dollars. He feels that OSP is at a steady state with need and resources. The VCR's inclination is to not increase staffing until the overhead increases to keep the use of overhead funds by his office to a necessary minimum. He will perhaps consider not fully replacing the 1 FTE in Intellectual Property for the academic year unless needed. He described the three major divisions of the Office of Research: the Office of Sponsored Projects (OSP), the Office of Research Compliance Administration (which includes the Chancellor's Animal Research Committee – CARC, and the Cal Institute for Regenerative Medicine – state bond funds for stem cell research, CIRM), and the Office of Management of Intellectual Property (OMIP). OMIP handles patents, licenses and industry agreements. The first two are required but rarely recover the costs meeting regulations incurs. Industry agreements no longer come without intellectual property agreements. For perspective, the VCR finally reminded the Committee that the OR brings in more external funds than tuition revenue does (tuition revenue is less than \$100 million).

When asked how the VCR could best use COR's help this year, VCR Margon responded that he appreciates COR's ear to the faculty to bring him any problems that he isn't aware of. He would also like some help developing guidelines for how matching funds requests are evaluated, prioritized and the role of non-Senate faculty as primary investigators (especially post-docs) as exceptions. The latter issue is complicated and it is difficult to anticipate unintended consequences. COR will discuss this in more depth at a later meeting.

So attests,
Phokion Kolaitis, Chair
Committee on Research