

**Minutes
Committee on Research
April 7, 2009**

The Committee on Research (COR) met on Tuesday, April 7, 2009, from 2-3:30 p.m. in 307 Kerr Hall.

Present: Phokion Kolaitis (Chair), Stephanie Casher (ASO staff), Donka Farkas, Carla Freccero, Holger Schmidt, Vanita Seth, Sriram Shastry, and Lewis Watts.

Absent with notice: Shaowei Chen, Meg Wilson

Guests: VCR Margon, OSP Director Bill Clark

The minutes of March 10, 2009, were approved.

Chair's Announcements:

The Chair shared with the committee a letter from Academic Council Chair Mary Croughan to VPR Beckwith re: the MRU/MRPI RFP. The letter cited the shared governance procedures for the establishment and disestablishment of MRUs, and urged greater senate involvement in the process. This issue is on the agenda for discussion at the next UCORP meeting.

The Chair also reported that the planned COR-sponsored forum on intellectual property will be combined with a similar event suggested to the VCR by the department chairs of the School of Engineering. The combined event, which will be co-sponsored by the Office of the VCR and COR, and will take place on May 27th and will be open to all faculty.

Visit from OSP Director Bill Clark

Director Clark distributed literature and handouts on the Office of Sponsored Projects, and opened his presentation with some statistics. There was an 18% increase in awards last year (\$131 million), and a 43% increase over the past five years.

He explained that the proliferation of online electronic submission programs has provided a challenge for his staff, as they have to continuously learn how to navigate new systems. The electronic submission programs themselves are also not without problems, such as grants.gov, which is experiencing capacity problems due to all the stimulus funds that have become available.

A committee member asked for his response to an expressed concern that there is not enough consistent/dedicated support for the Social Sciences. Director Clark explained that part of the problem is that the New Teacher Center (NTC) requires a lot of OSP support. One staff member is dedicated solely to the NTC, another to Environmental Studies, leaving the remaining two .5 FTE positions to be split amongst the remaining departments. In his opinion, the workload just is not there to justify a full-time person dedicated to the Education Department. He also

acknowledges that proximity of OSP staff to faculty is an issue, but feels it is the responsibility of the Social Sciences Division to provide the space to address the proximity problem. Director Clark reported that while he may be able to get through the budget cuts without staff reductions, the reality is that the workload and number of proposals will only continue to increase, while it is unlikely that more staff will be added to his office. The result is that less service will be available for department staff and faculty.

Most other UCs have most of the proposal preparation located within the individual departments, and the OSP office is just for review and submission. Here at UCSC, the culture is that departments are *not* faculty service centers when it comes to proposal preparation. In this regard, OSP at UCSC is expected to provide higher levels of service than elsewhere.

Question: What changes to OSP would Director Clark like to see in an ideal scenario?

Answer: An attorney on staff to deal with contracts (i.e. a Contracts Officer)

Question: Do you perceive a functional overlap between divisional research accountants and OSP budget staff?

Answer: No, because there has to be checks and balances, and a separation of duties.

The committee thanked Director Clark for his time, and the informative handouts he provided.

Consultation with VCR Margon

Adding his perspective to the OSP discussion, VCR Margon reiterated that lower levels of service in the future is a reality that we are all going to have to get used to. The Office of Sponsored Project is currently operating at capacity, and there is no fat to trim. However, he did agree that it may be time for another review of OSP in a year or two.

VCR Margon also reported that there are 20 proposals going into the MRU/MRPI competition with UCSC as the lead campus. In response to the letter from Mary Croughan to VPR Beckwith, VCR Margon fears the Academic Council's proposal to increase senate participation may end up being lose/lose – it will either create a lot of extra work for Senate Committees that may or may not impact the final decisions, or it will bring the MRU-PI process to a screeching halt. In his opinion, neither scenario is desirable.

The meeting adjourned at 3:30 p.m.

So attests,
Phokion Kolaitis, Chair
Committee on Research