

**Minutes  
Committee on Research  
January 27, 2009**

The Committee on Research (COR) met on Tuesday, January 27, 2009, from 2-3:30 p.m. in 307 Kerr Hall.

Present: Carla Freccero (Chair, *pro tem*), Stephanie Casher (ASO staff), Shaowei Chen, Donka Farkas, Judit Moschkovich, Holger Schmidt, Sriram Shastry, Lewis Watts, Meg Wilson.

Absent with notice: Phokion Kolaitis

Guest: VCR Bruce Margon.

The minutes of January 13, 2009, were approved.

**Chair's Announcement:**

Lewis Watts, new COR member from the Art Department, was introduced to COR.

Chair Freccero announced the RFP (request for proposals) that went out concerning UCOP-funded MRUs (Multi-campus Research Units). There was brief discussion about the call, the place of existing MRUs in the recompetition, and the units excluded from the call (Lick Observatory, UC Mexus, and White Mountain). Further discussion was tabled until VCR Margon's arrival.

**Review of Letter to Faculty announcing call for FRG-SRG applications**

The committee was curious about whether or not SOE lecturers were considered junior faculty, and if so, a slight change of language was suggested. No other changes were suggested. Stephanie Casher will investigate the senate rules and language concerning the senate status of SOE lecturers and advise.

**Review of grant guidelines**

Committee members collaborated on several revisions to the grant guidelines, most of which aimed to make the document more concise. The line about newly-appointed and non-tenured faculty receiving the *highest* priority in FRG awards was deleted. The committee also agreed to remove any reference to COR funds being used to support the travel costs for collaborating scholars, as they did not feel this was a proper use of COR funds, and for this round of vetting will consider such requests as a nonallowable expense.

Committee members revisited the suggestion of uploading examples of well-written proposals onto the website to serve as a guide for applicants. Chair Freccero did not feel there was enough

time to get that done before this year's call goes out, but agrees it should be included in next year's call. Senate Staff will consult with ITS to see if an additional field can be added to the application that asks for the applicant's permission to use their proposal as a sample in next year's application process.

### **Items for future meetings**

-- Committee members expressed interest in moving toward a model, similar to other campuses, where access to FRG funds is less cumbersome, i.e. no application needed at all, or a simpler application process.

-- An issue was raised about whether COR should be lobbying for a larger share of the ICR (Indirect Cost Recovery) that the campus receives.

### **Consultation with VCR Margon**

Vice Chancellor for Research (VCR) Bruce Margon joined COR to discuss the call for proposals from UCOP for MRUs (Multi-campus Research Units). Approximately \$12 million of MRU support is up for grabs between existing MRUs and new projects, with an application deadline of mid-April (Letters of Intent due in mid-March). The goal is for new MRUs to be up and running by July 1, 2009, and defunded MRUs to be shut down by July 1, 2010.

Lick Observatory, UC Mexus, and White Mountain are exempt from the recompetition.

Since UCSC is a small campus and we don't serve as the host campus for any large institutes, we don't have much to lose in this competition. Also, since the MRU awards do not provide for indirect costs, any large initiative that is funded will likely be a financial burden on the host campus, rather than a revenue-generator. But VCR Margon still would like to see UCSC win at least one MRU, and would like to enlist COR's help in getting the word out to faculty and drumming up as many proposals as possible. One committee member suggested that the VCR host an informational forum for faculty.

The meeting adjourned at 3:30 p.m.

So attests,  
Carla Freccero, Chair, *pro tem*  
Committee on Research