

**Minutes
Committee on Research
February 10, 2009**

The Committee on Research (COR) met on Tuesday, February 10, 2009, from 2-3:15 p.m. in 307 Kerr Hall.

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

Absent with notice: Shaowei Chen

Guest: VCR Bruce Margon.

The minutes of January 27, 2009, were approved.

Chair's Announcements:

The Chair reminded the Committee of Patricia Zavella's Faculty Research Lecture this evening.

UCORP Meeting

- A task force appointed by the UC President has been formed to investigate new sources of revenue for the UC campuses.
- UCORP discussed a request by UCAF (University Committee on Academic Freedom) concerning the implementation of RE-89 at the divisional level. RE-89 is a resolution approved by the UC Regents concerning acceptance by UC faculty of research funds from the tobacco industry; this resolution had been met with resistance on the grounds that it infringes upon academic freedom. UCAF proposed that faculty members appointed by the divisional Chancellors to serve on committees reviewing compliance with RE-89 be selected from a list supplied by the divisional CORs. After discussion, UCORP opined that it is more appropriate for the divisional Committees on Committees to provide names for such a list.
- There are efforts under way to gather data on how CORs on other campuses operate and utilize their resources, in order to produce a comparative study.

SEC Meeting

- There was extensive discussion on the budget situation.
- There was discussion regarding potential changes in the UC Retirement fund. CFW (Committee on Faculty Welfare) is trying to bring representatives from UCOP to campus to talk to faculty about the evolving retirement situation.
- Deans for Arts and Engineering are about to be appointed.

High-level Indicators - A draft of the letter from Senate Chair Williams re: the *Internal* High-level Indicators was circulated for discussion. The COR Chair expressed concern that some of the broader issues raised by COR, such as how the Indicators are tied in the academic plan, are

not reflected in the draft letter from Senate Chair Williams. COR brainstormed an additional set of internal metrics relevant to research that the Chair will ask to be included in the final draft.

These include:

- Number of Endowed Chairs
- Amount of funding COR receives
- Discretionary funds of Divisional Deans to support research.
- Amount of awards supporting undergraduate research
- Number of non-curricular research entities (Centers, Institutes, Research Initiatives, etc.) that exist outside of the regular departmental structure; the amount of internal and external funding each entity receives
- Total amount of matching funds provided by the campus
- Placement of doctoral recipients after graduation (although it was brought to the Committee's attention that there is no centralized system in existence that is responsible for tracking this information).

As an additional indicator, the Committee thought it might also be useful to identify what the top journals are in each field, and then compile statistics about articles published in these journals by UCSC faculty.

Letter to the Deans Re: Convocation on Research

The Committee approved the draft letter. Senate staff will transmit a letter to each Divisional Dean.

Consultation with VCR Margon

VCR Margon expressed his excitement about the upcoming Convocation on Research, and his willingness to assist in whatever ways seem appropriate.

VCR Margon reported on two NSF proposals generated in the School of Engineering that were not able to go forward due to a lack of matching funds. There could be a variety of reasons why the request for matching funds never made it to his office, but a discussion emerged about how the Office of Research determines the amounts of matching funds available to each Division, and the best way to educate faculty about how to access the resources available here on campus for their proposals.

One Committee member pointed out that many junior faculty do not appear to be particularly savvy in regards to the process of obtaining internal funding at UCSC. VCR Margon noted that he typically is invited to give a talk at the New Faculty Orientation on this topic, but was not asked to speak this year. Consensus was reached that this item needs to be re-integrated back into the New Faculty Orientation program, and COR will urge AHR to make this item a priority. VCR Margon also offered to do a separate workshop in the fall for interested parties, if COR was interested in hosting one.

Regarding a previous discussion on the IGERT (Integrative Graduate Education and Research Training) competition, VCR Margon did some research and discovered that at least nine IGERT

proposals have been proposed by UCSC faculty since 1999, and this is a lower limit, as in some years faculty could initiate proposals via a Letter of Intent which does not necessarily pass through OSP. However, UCSC hasn't won an IGERT since 1999. This statistic is troubling to him, and he is hoping that this situation will be rectified in the future. Currently, there are six IGERT pre-proposals in the pipeline (one which will have to be dropped, as each campus can put forward up to five pre-proposals), and he hopes that at least one of them will be successful.

The meeting adjourned at 3:15 p.m.

So attests,
Phokion Kolaitis, Chair
Committee on Research