

November 4, 2004

Alison Galloway
Chair, Academic Senate

COR Response to the LRDP Draft Report

Dear Alison,

COR discussed the LRDP draft report at its first meeting. The committee sees the following issues as those most directly related to research:

- amount of space allocated to research
- location of space allocated to research
- providing for infrastructure adequate for research needs
- appropriate preservation of the Campus Natural Reserves for research purposes

Amount of space allocated to research

The Strategic Futures Committee Interim Report (April 2004) recommended [p. 16, fn. 34] that...

...LRDP projections for future research space (both 'sponsored' and 'unsponsored') be based upon [a] combination of 100% of the guideline space suggested by the CPEC standards plus a 50% increase above all current/planned ORU/ORA space. [p. 16, fn. 34]

The LRDP draft report combines the square footage allocated to research with that allocated to instruction [p. 57], making it difficult to assess the adequacy of projected additional research space. We realize that research space allocation is a complicated issue. Nonetheless, we would like to know more about how the increase in asf which is projected in this LRDP is distributed between research and instruction and, if possible, how the research allocation responds to the recommendation of the Strategic Futures Committee.

Location of space allocated to research

Consistent with the nature of the report, there is no specific discussion of where research space might be located. This seems to us appropriate.

Infrastructure

The LRDP draft explicitly recognizes the importance of reliable infrastructure to the research mission on campus. We want to underscore the importance of this issue, especially that of reliable electrical power.

One of the continuing research limitations on our campus is the lack of predictable electrical power. The campus has worked very hard to make up for the fact that we are at the end of the PG&E grid by putting in back-up generators in critical areas. In moving forward, however, we need to enhance that reliability.

Many new kinds of experiments in the sciences require consistent electrical power without the huge problems created by 18-hour scheduled power shutdowns (as well as shorter ones). No other major university campus in the U.S. of which we are aware ever has long, scheduled, power shutdowns to a science research building for maintenance purposes. (We have not done a systematic survey, but have never known of such scheduled shutdowns in any universities in which we have worked.) We need to work together toward better solutions, if we are to attract faculty who are doing cutting edge research in many areas of scientific research.

Campus Natural Reserve

Four hundred twenty acres is designated as Campus Natural Reserve in this plan. From the map on p. 62, it looks like this plan does not propose any change from the 1988 LRDP. If this is so, we suggest it be mentioned. If it is not so, that should also be noted.

Sincerely,
Judith Aissen
Chair, COR