

COMMITTEE ON RESEARCH Annual Report 2007-08

To the Academic Senate, Santa Cruz Division:

I. COR Activities Regarding Matters of Research Policy

A. Relations with the VCR and Office of Research

The 2007-08 COR continued its coordination with VCR Bruce Margon, who attended most meetings of COR as a guest, and participated in discussions about policy and funding for research.

B. Strategic Academic Planning: Implementation Studies

VCR Margon brought to COR a request for consultation regarding Implementation of aspects of the Strategic Academic Plan relating to research. COR provided two suggestions:

COR Recommendation #1: One of the major obstacles to the progress of our graduate students is a shortage of fellowship funding for students at intermediate and advanced levels. COR would like to see a program supporting mid- and end-career graduate student research by some innovative means, such as, for example, a program (perhaps jointly administered by COR and the Graduate Division) providing a grant/fellowship competition to support collaborative graduate student/faculty research.

COR Recommendation #2:

Various groups of faculty have been quite successful at developing proposals for medium-level grants supporting particular research programs; but there is no campus-level mechanism to provide support for the kind of multi-year planning that is required to prepare for the establishment of big new centers of excellence. COR recommends that the campus invest in some selected number of strategic planning efforts toward such major developments, perhaps providing seed funding and release time for faculty engaged in a major planning effort.

C. Review of Technology and Information Management (TIM) Graduate Proposal

As part of the normal review process, COR reviewed this proposal. While the proposed program looks interesting and worthy of pursuing, COR was surprised to see virtually nothing mentioned about research in the proposal (especially considering that the Ph.D. is supposed to be mostly a research degree. Comments were passed along to Graduate Council for incorporation into the GC response.

D. Professional Schools Pre-proposals

COR reviewed the several professional school pre-proposals as a group, and raised concerns about funding (especially of the School of Management, which is projected to

run a deficit for some eight years), and questions about how the various proposed schools fit into the 10-20 year goals of the campus.

E. Review of Divisional Research Units

There has in the past been no established policy for the review of Divisional research units. During 2007-08, Dean Kameniecki (Social Sciences) invited COR to participate in the review of two research units in the Social Sciences: The Center for Agroecology and Sustainable Food Systems (CASFS) and the New Teacher Center (NTC). COR has agreed to participate in these reviews and expects to participate in the development of a standard process for the review of such research entities.

II. COR Activities Involving the University Committee on Research Policy

A. Discussion of Policy Regarding Tracking and Use of Indirect Cost Recovery

This activity continued from the previous year. Not much happened at the systemwide level. In a meeting with the Chancellor, COR requested a transparent accounting of the uses of ICR funds on the campus, and the Chancellor invited a request from COR for such an accounting. COR is in the process of preparing this request.

As part of COR's investigation into the mysteries of the use of ICR funds, a consultation with VCPB Michaels was illuminating, but raised further questions. The ICR money seems to get tapped for all kinds of purposes, and COR would like to get a picture of all of them.

III. COR Budget and Grants Programs

A. COR Budget

COR funding was increased by a permanent allocation of \$4620, down sharply from previous years reflecting a reduction in the increase of campus recovery of federal indirect costs. The total amount of 2007-08 funds allocated to COR was \$485,531. Taking a longer view, UCSC COR funding continues to slip behind levels during the late 1980s and early 1990s, and remains well below funding levels at most other UC campuses (as documented in the COR 2004-05 annual report and the 2002-03 report on COR funding levels).

B. COR Grants Programs

COR continued to fund three primary grant programs during the 2007-08 year: Faculty Research Grants (FRGs), Special Research Grants (SRGs), and funding for Scholarly Meeting Travel (SMT). The FRG and SRG awards were made in the Spring, whereas SMT awards were made throughout the fiscal year. In addition, COR funded New Faculty Research Grants (NFRGs) in the Fall for newly-arrived faculty who missed the FRG call during the preceding spring. Total funding in support of these programs was \$554,149 (Table 1). The amount expended by COR in support of research in 2007-08 that exceeded 2007-08 funding was made up by carry-forward from the preceding year.

Table 1. Summary of COR Research Expenditures during the 2007-08 Year

| Category | Amount | Comments |
|--|------------------|-------------------------|
| FRG (awarded July 1, 07) & NFRG (awarded Fall 07) | \$214,225 | Paid with 2007-08 funds |
| SRG (awarded Spring 08) | \$205,528 | Paid with 2007-08 funds |
| SMT | \$134,396 | Paid with 2007-08 funds |
| Total expenditures | \$554,149 | |

As in 2006-07, the ‘basic’ award for FRGs and NFRGs was \$2000 for untenured faculty and from \$1500 for tenured faculty, with an additional \$500 available in each category if properly justified. SRG awards were limited to \$15,000 for individual investigators and \$20,000 for investigator teams of two or more Senate members. SMT was limited to \$650, with up to \$1000 available every third year.

The vast majority of FRG, NFRG, and SMT requests were funded in full. Although there are restrictions as to how funds can be used in these programs, applicants who follow the instructions and properly justify their requests are generally funded.

The wording of the FRG/SRG FAQ page and Guidelines was amended to include language encouraging faculty to apply for intermediate-sized grants (between \$2500 and \$15,000) under the SRG program, and to clarify how sustained projects over several years might be presented. The sections in the Guidelines concerning textbooks for commercial publication and research travel were modified to allow COR more leeway to evaluate proposals on a case-by-case basis.

Table 2. Summary statistics on the 2007-08 FRG and SMT programs.

| Division | FRG apps funded | FRG amount funded | SMT apps funded | SMT amount funded |
|-----------------|------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|
| Arts | 32 | 61,233 | 30 | 23,548 |
| Engineering | 1 | 1,595 | 9 | 8,300 |
| Humanities | 33 | 56,930 | 42 | 30,354 |
| P&BS | 13 | 23,420 | 21 | 16,850 |
| SocSci | 40 | 71,047 | 71 | 55,344 |
| Campus | 119 | 214,225 | 173 | 134,396 |

Table 3. Summary statistics on the 2007-08 SRG program.

| Division | SRG apps requested | SRG apps funded | SRG amount funded | |
|-----------------|---------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|--|
| Arts | 10 | 5 | 49,578 | |
| Engineering | 4 | 3 | 30,000 | |
| Humanities | 7 | 4 | 32,400 | |
| P&BS | 10 | 3 | 49,000 | |
| SocSci | 8 | 3 | 44,550 | |
| Campus | 39 | 18 | 205,528 | |

IV. COR Representation

In addition to representation on UCORP, COR was represented through its chair on the Senate Executive Committee. That committee also met several times with the Chancellor's Advisory Board. COR member K. Bruland represented the committee throughout the year during most Instructional Technology Committee meetings.

V. COR Senate Support

The COR is indebted to Laurie Babka, Senate Committee Advisor, for the careful, thoughtful, detailed support she provided to the committee throughout the 2007-08 year. Laurie's contributions were enormously important to the functioning of the committee.

Respectfully submitted,

COMMMITTEE ON RESEARCH

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