

## COMMITTEE ON RESEARCH Annual Report 2002-03

*To the Academic Senate, Santa Cruz Division:*

The following describes the activities of the 2002-03 UCSC Committee on Research (COR).

### I. COR activities

#### **Bylaw revision**

COR worked with COC on revisions to the Senate bylaws which more clearly state the Committee's charge and bring that charge into better conformance with campus practice and systemwide bylaws. The revisions also expand the membership of the Committee in recognition of the increasing workload and complexity of the Committee's work with the continuing expansion of research activities at UCSC. The bylaw revisions were approved by the Senate at the winter meeting.

#### **COR budget**

The state-mandated across-the-board 10% cut in research funding led to a permanent cut of \$27,590 in available COR funds, and a second cut of similar magnitude was scheduled for summer 2003. This was somewhat offset by a \$15,750 allocation of increased campus indirect cost recovery funds. Fortunately, EVC Simpson was also able to make permanent a \$50,000 augmentation to the COR budget that had been funded for several years on a temporary basis. Overall funding of the COR research and travel grant programs is therefore comparable to the level of the 1990s, when the campus was considerably smaller, and well below the goals set out in the Senate's ten-year planning document. However, in the current budget climate, with externally mandated cuts to research funding, it is unlikely that the situation will quickly improve.

#### **Review of Organized Research Units**

University policy requires regular review by the Senate of organized research units. Most such units must be formally established as Organized Research Units (ORUs) or Multicampus Research Units (MRUs) as a condition of ongoing support with campus resources and the privilege of using the University name. (With exceptions for certain small-scale "Centers.") Preparations began for a "five-year" review of the Institute for Marine Sciences.

There are a number of entities on campus that function as organized research units but which have not undergone Senate review for formal establishment as ORUs and which receive continuing resource allocations without regular review. The Committee recommended that the office of the Vice Chancellor for Research develop a list of these units and establish standard procedures for review of new research units for formal establishment or disestablishment within five years of origin.

#### **Other activities and pending matters**

During the summer, it was announced that the graduate division and office of research will be brought together under the leadership of VCR Miller. COR has not yet discussed this change. Considerable work by the administration on establishing a University-Associated Research Center (UARC) contract with NASA has also occurred this summer; the Committee consulted with VCR Miller on early stages of these discussions, and will continue these consultations in 2003-04. It is likely that the proposed merger with the Monterey Institute for International Studies

will also raise issues relating to the establishment of new organized research units that will require COR's attention. The Office of Sponsored Projects underwent an external review during the winter and spring. It is anticipated that COR will review the report of the external committee this fall.

## II. Allocation of COR grant funding

A major activity of COR is to evaluate proposals for scholarly travel, research, and other scholarly activities. COR funds work in all areas, but has traditionally chosen to concentrate on funding faculty in the early stages of their careers; funding areas where external fund sources are limited; and funding projects where a small amount of seed money could have a significant impact on a research project or on efforts to obtain external funds. During the year, COR awarded \$391,000. Most of the funds (84%) were roughly evenly split between faculty in the Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences divisions.

### Special Research Grants

Applications received/funded: 19/14  
Total awarded: \$126,831

Breakdown:	number/amount
Arts	5/\$42,386
Eng	1/\$10,000
Hum	1/\$ 5,380
Arts/Hum Interdisciplinary	1/\$14,655
P&BS	2/\$17,000
SocSci	4/\$37,410

### Faculty Research Grants

Applications funded: 123  
Total awarded: \$179,363

Breakdown:	number/amount
Arts	35/\$59,214
Eng	1/\$ 1,000
Hum	38/\$51,622
P&BS	15/\$19,499
SocSci	34/\$48,028

### Scholarly Meeting Travel

Applications funded: 135  
Total awarded \$85,127

Breakdown:	number/amount
Arts	14/\$ 8,703
Eng	4/\$ 3,500
Hum	48/\$27,077
P&BS	15/\$12,604
SocSci	54/\$33,243

### III. University Committee on Research Policy (UCORP) activities

COR Chair Thorsett served as the UCSC representative to UCORP, which was chaired by UCSC faculty member Darrell Long. In addition to its usual workload reviewing organized research units and proposed academic units, UCORP issues this year included review of the new academic freedom policy, issues related to the Patriot Act, sensitive but unclassified research (SUTI), and sponsor-imposed restrictions on research activities. UCORP forwarded a resolution on SUTI issues to the Academic Council, and continues to work closely with the Council and other committees on these issues. UCORP also made recommendations to the Council on review procedures for the California Institutes for Science and Innovation. More details on UCORP activities may be found in the UCORP annual report.

### IV. COR representation

In addition to representation on UCORP, COR is represented through its chair on the Senate Advisory Committee and on the administrative Academic Planning Committee. The latter committee was inactive for much of the year.

The committee deeply appreciates the hard work and expertise of its staff assistant, Laurie Babka.

Respectfully submitted,  
COMMITTEE ON RESEARCH  
Nameera Akhtar  
Neil Balmforth  
Alan Christy  
Sharon Daniel  
Stephen Thorsett, Chair

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