

## **COMMITTEE ON RESEARCH Annual Report 2003-04**

*To the Academic Senate, Santa Cruz Division:*

The following describes the activities of the 2003-2004 UCSC Committee on Research (COR).

### **I. COR Activities**

#### **COR Budget**

The state-mandated across-the-board 10% cut in research funding during Summer 2003 led to a permanent cut of \$20,700 in available COR funds. This was offset by a permanent \$21,750 allocation of increased campus indirect cost recovery funds. Coming on top of a similar 10% cut the previous year, COR's per capita funding remains significantly below the 1989-90 level and below the goals set out in the Senate's ten-year planning document. Future increases in indirect cost recovery funds will be reflected in permanent increases to COR's budget, but increases in faculty numbers may offset the per capita funding available.

#### **Report on the Special Research Grants Program**

The Special Research Grants program was initiated in 1999 and funded through the New Initiatives program of then EVC-Campus Provost John Simpson. At that time, Provost Simpson requested that COR account at a later date for the distribution and impact of those funds. Among the goals of the program have been to provide more significant funding in areas where external funding is scarce or non-existent, to seed projects with the potential to leverage external funds, to support junior faculty research, and to encourage interdisciplinary research. With five award cycles passed and final reports from three groups of awardees submitted, COR drafted and approved a report which was sent to VCR Miller, Interim Campus Provost Delaney and Acting Chancellor Chemers. The report is posted on the UCSC COR website, <http://senate.ucsc.edu/cor>.

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

University policy requires regular review by the Senate of organized research units. During 2003-2004, the Institute of Marine Sciences (IMS) at UCSC underwent review. The COR chair represented the committee at the exit interview. COR reviewed the final report and submitted a response.

The Santa Cruz Institute for Particle Physics (SCIPP) was due for review in 2004-05. That review has been put on hold until 2005-06 at the request of the VCR's office.

#### **Review of the Office of Sponsored Projects**

The first review of the Office of Sponsored Projects (OSP) was conducted in Spring 2003. To our knowledge, this is the first time that the campus had an administrative unit reviewed by an all-faculty committee. COR received a copy of the final report and supported most of its recommendations. The COR response, approved in Fall 2003, urged the VCR to keep in mind all faculty research activities, including those which do not involve the OSP, in strengthening the research infrastructure on campus.

#### **Other Activities and Pending Matters**

COR consulted with a number of campus administrators regarding research-related activities. The committee met with Larry Merkley, VP for IT, and his team regarding the IT consolidation process; with Meredith Michaels, VC for P&B, for a briefing on the indirect cost renegotiation

process; with Caitlin Deck, Research Compliance Officer, for a briefing on her office and to discuss consultation with COR. COR advised VCR Miller on the distribution of anticipated cuts to the research budget and on the draft post-doc policy (APM 390). COR received a request from UCORP seeking information about possible problematic language in contracts and grants on the UCSC campus. COR circulated an electronic communication to faculty, and reported back on the results. COR also reviewed a draft Senate Resolution on the Patriot Act and recommended changes in the language pertaining to research. The committee reviewed draft reports from the Strategic Futures and LRDP committees and responded with comments. The committee had expected to be involved in discussions concerning the possible acquisition of the Monterey Institute for International Studies, but discussions were put on hold.

## **II. Allocation of COR Grant Funding**

A major activity of COR is to evaluate proposals for scholarly travel, research and other scholarly activity. COR funds support all areas. This year, COR increased the level of funding available under the Special Research Grants (SRG) program to \$15,000 for individual proposals and \$20,000 for collaborative projects while at the same time funding fewer proposals. During the year, COR awarded a total of \$412,720. Arts and Humanities received a higher level of funding relative to the percentage of faculty in their divisions; PBS and Engineering received a lower level; and SS received an amount proportional to their share of campus faculty.

### **Special Research Grants**

Applications received/funded: 18/9  
Total awarded: \$132,528

Breakdown: number awarded/amount

Arts	0/0
Eng	1/\$20,000
Hum	2/\$21,185
PBS	3/\$45,000
SS	3/\$46,343

### **Faculty Research Grants**

Applications funded: 123  
Total awarded: \$193,460

Breakdown: number awarded/amount

Arts	32/\$56,997
Eng	3/\$5,500
Hum	43/\$59,149
PBS	11/\$13,530
SS	34/\$58,284

### **Scholarly Meeting Travel**

Applications funded: 131  
Total awarded: \$86,732

#### Breakdown: number/amount

Arts	21/\$12,750
Eng	1/\$1,000
Hum	45/\$30,811
PBS	18/\$12,017
SS	46/\$30,154

### **III. University Committee on Research Policy (UCORP) Activities**

COR member Steve Thorsett served as the UCSC representative to UCORP. In addition to its usual workload reviewing multi-campus research units, UCORP devoted significant time to the question of how the CAL ISIs should be reviewed. It revised its earlier “Resolution on Sensitive but Unclassified Technical Information (SUTI)”, which was adopted by the Academic Council in November 2003. After two years of discussion, UCORP completed the “Report on Problematic Restrictive Clauses in Contracts, Grants and Gifts for Research”. The report, as well as a “Resolution on Restrictions on Research Funding Sources”, was submitted to the Academic Council. Discussion of the report and resolution is ongoing in the Divisions and other Academic Senate committees. More details on UCORP activities may be found in the UCORP annual report, <http://www.universityofcalifornia.edu/senate/committees/ucorp/reports.html>.

### **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. Alan Christy served as liaison from COR to the Strategic Futures Committee. The COR chair also served on the search committee for the Associate Dean of Graduate Studies, and represented the committee at meetings with the WASC team.

Finally, COR wishes to express its appreciation to Laurie Babka, Senate Committee Advisor, who facilitated COR’s work with her administrative expertise, institutional memory, and good sense.

Respectfully submitted,

#### COMMITTEE ON RESEARCH

Nameera Akhtar (W, S)  
Alan Christy  
Sharon Daniel  
Daniel Friedman  
Marc Mangel  
Abe Seiden  
John Thompson  
Stephen Thorsett  
Judith Aissen, Chair

January 31, 2005