

Minutes
Committee on Research
January 17th, 2012

Present: Scott Oliver (chair), Elisabeth Cameron , Nathaniel Deutsch, David Koo, Sri Kurniawan, Deborah Letourneau, Barbara Rogoff, Kim Smith (ASO)

Absent with notice: Hamid Sadjadpour, Elisabeth Cameron

Guests: Pradip Masharak (COC Member), Vice Chancellor of Research Margon, Andrew Smith (GSA Representative)

Chair's Announcements:

1. Introduction of guests: Pradip Mascharak (COC) and GSA Rep. Andrew Smith

Committee on Committees member Pradip Mascharak visited COR to better understand its function and to see if anyone would like to continue their service with COR for a second year.

COR agreed to invite a representative from the Graduate Student Association (GSA) to several of its meetings to determine whether or not it would be advisable in the near future to seek a change to the COR Charge in allowing a GSR to join the committee. Andrew Smith will be sitting in on COR meetings for the Winter Quarter.

2. Chair Oliver asked COR to edit/approve his informal thank you letter to Gordon Ringold, Director of UCSC Silicon Valley Initiatives. The letter was approved and includes an invitation for Gordon to respond to some questions that were raised during his visit to COR in December, and perhaps to attend another COR meeting in the near future.
3. UCORP has started a new taskforce for Multi-campus Research Programs and Initiatives (MRPIs), formally known as Multi-campus Research Units (MRUs). The new MRPI taskforce will include 40 UC system wide members and chairs and will meet monthly. Chair Oliver will serve on this task force.

MRPI history:

In 2009, the University of California Office of the President awarded over \$58 million in competitive grants to 37 multi-campus programs and initiatives. These Multi-campus Research Programs and Initiatives (MRPI) grants seek to support innovative campus efforts to enhance UC's ability to advance scholarship, student training and knowledge, particularly in areas of importance to the University and the State.

4. The funds for computational racks at the San Diego Supercomputing Center (SDSC) are still available. VC Margon will address this subject in his consultation with COR today.
5. Review of SEC meeting on Jan. 17th regarding issues of interest to COR:

UCSC Rebenching Statement: SEC agreed in Fall Quarter to produce a paper for distribution that would inform campus constituents about Rebenching and the UC budget. SEC also discussed wider circulation of a shortened version of the document. There will also be a review of the curriculum for each major. A major mapping project, including a close look at the admission requirements for each major and whether or not certain class requirements overlap with others.

UCO/Lick Observatory Updates:

Chair Oliver met with UCO Director Michael Bolte in December 2011, and will provide updates on this meeting as well as information about UCO that arose during the last UCORP meeting. Recent COR discussions about UCO have included informal news that the observatory may be facing a major funding dilemma.

UCO Lick has so far been sheltered from large budget cuts, but the Vice President of Research and Graduate Studies at UCOP, Steven Beckwith, is reconsidering the budget. There has been a lot of back and forth between Director Bolte and VP Beckwith. Internal and external reviews of UCO were conducted recently, all with high praise of UCO. Last year, VPR Beckwith ended the UC Discovery program as well as several long standing MRUs.

We have approximately 11 to 12 FTEs in UCO Astronomy. These FTEs are 20% funded by UCSC, and it's unclear at this point which portions of the UCO budget would be in jeopardy if cuts are implemented.

Center for Entrepreneurship (C4E):

COR Chair Oliver recently met with the C4E board and is providing an update on their current projects and their issues with UCSC's Intellectual Properties Office (IPO). The Center for Entrepreneurship (C4E) comprises a series of multidisciplinary academic and applied programs that work together in new, transformative ways, modeling itself on the principles behind that of a teaching hospital: students learn theory in the classroom and then apply their individual skills in a collaborative environment on a common target. Here, the "operating room" is a simulation startup company and their combined goal is to develop business models that bring an innovation to market. In this case, one specifically set up to commercialize intellectual property developed within UCSC.

The C4E board brought up issues and concerns about UC's IP office, including lack of confidence in the law firm with which our campus files patents, and that IP takes a very long time to process our patents, if at all. IP reports to VCR Margon, so COR will consult with him on these issues when he arrives today.

Consultation with VCR Bruce Margon:

Regional Data Center Allocation of Funds: The office of the EVC has made available approximately \$1,00,000 for use over a five year period (an average of \$200,000 per year) to subsidize users at UCSC who wish to utilize the Regional Data Center at the San Diego Supercomputer Center to house computing, storage or other power- and cooling-intensive computer operations. At current rates, this amount would support the power, heat requirements and maintenance for approximately 20 racks of computer equipment. The rationale for this allocation is that current Data Center capacity at UCSC is largely filled and the SDSC presently has available and accessible space for UC users. Hence, COR had drafted a call for proposals from the UCSC campus that would utilize this funding.

VCR Margon explained that the money cannot be used by COR for any other endeavors. The purpose of this “hidden money” is that it has been set aside for “tenant’s fees” so that faculty members don’t have to pay for electricity and cooling once they’ve purchased their cluster of computers. The VCR suggested using this money for future requests by faculty that arise periodically for new hires or new research projects.

COR raised issues about faculty dissatisfaction with the IPO. VCR Margon explained that there can’t be a patent without a disclosure. Most disclosures come from engineering and now disclosures are nearly doubled. VCR Margon is confident that disclosures don’t get lost, they just take time. Also, only 1 in 500 disclosures will lead to income for university system and generate a significant amount of revenue. The COR Chair will follow up with VCR Margon and update COR on this issue.

The meeting adjourned at 3:35 pm.

So Attests,

Scott Oliver, Chair

Committee on Research (COR)