MINUTES
Committee on Research
June 5, 2012

Present: Scott Oliver (chair), David Koo, Sri Kurniawan, Debra Lewis, Deborah Letourneau, Barbara Rogoff, Hamid Sadjadpour, Mary-Beth Harhen, Senate Director

Absent with Notice: Nathaniel Deutsch, Elisabeth Cameron

Chair’s Announcements, Member’s Items
The COR minutes of May 22, 2012 were approved as written.

Chair Oliver reported that COR was an outlier to the Senate Executive Committee (SEC) in opposing (5 to 2) the elimination of external letters for the Mid-Career review (CAPM 408.220).

Following up on the UC Observatories Board discussion of the last meeting, Chair Oliver reported that the UCO Director was resigning and Professor Sandra Faber was appointed Interim UCO Director.

Based on COR’s decision to invite a graduate student to sit with the committee this year, COR agreed it would consider changing its charge next year to include graduate student representation.

Social Sciences Task Force on Agroecology, Food Systems, Florae and Sustainability
Dean Kamieniecki appointed this task force last fall to recommend strategies for preserving programs in the south campus since they continue to be subject to substantial budget cuts. The programs include: the Arboretum, Center for Agroecology and Sustainable Food Systems (AFSFS), Sustainable Living Center, a program in Community, the Life Lab and Campus Natural Reserves.

COR restricted their discussion to the main research facility, AFSFS noting that this resource is important for social sciences and other faculty to do preliminary research which enables them to apply for larger grants. AFSFS has a thirty (plus) year history and has put UCSC on the map for agroecology. The apprenticeship program is well known and there is some support dedicated to small farm techniques from the state. With the withdrawal of the Social Sciences divisional funding and the decline in other resources, COR considered if it is possible for AFSFS to get some of the UC systemwide Agricultural money which currently only goes to three campuses, namely Berkeley, Davis and Riverside. COR noted that the frequent change in leadership of the program has put the program in jeopardy and hoped that the current strategy of a faculty director would champion the focus on obtaining external resources. COR agreed that the Task Force report, which went to the Social Sciences Dean, should be reviewed by the Senate as a whole since it touches the areas of undergraduate and graduate education as well as research. Chair Oliver will forward this request to the Senate Chair.
**Restoration of COR Funds**

There is not yet a response from the EVC to COR’s request for some restoration of funds. It was agreed that COR would look at the COR budgets of other campuses next year, although it was noted that comparison arguments for additional funds have not been successful in the past.

**Intercampus Travel**

The criteria for Intercampus Travel support are not clear which makes approving or declining applications difficult. COR agreed that next year it would reconsider the criteria and look at both the policy and fiscal history of the program.

**COR Grant Application and Adjudication Timing**

Now that both the SRG and FRG grant programs will be funded in the same fiscal year, COR has the opportunity to change the timing of the funding cycle. By moving up to a Winter quarter application and adjudication cycle (notification of award by 3/30), some benefits could be realized such as: ability for faculty to plan summer research; less need for extensions; greater certainty of COR budget going into the cycle. COR agreed to the following schedule for next year’s SRGs and FRGs (dates are approximate):

- **Fall Quarter:**
  - Review and approve criteria and application website
  - Open application period from December 1 through January 20

- **Winter quarter:**
  - COR adjudication of applications (February)
  - Notification of Award by March 15-30

**COR Agenda Items for Next Year**

COR discussed topics that need attention for next year such as rethinking the eligible expenses for both the FRG and SRG – including computers, graduate student support and open access fees for publications. Additionally, the committee will look at the Off-the-Top (OTT) funding split of 40/40/15/5. If rebenching occurs, funds will come to UCSC for “aspirational” graduate growth. Since there is such a close intersection with research, COR will consult with the Graduate Council and the Graduate Dean on planning for use of the funds. COR will also look at undergraduate participation in research, particularly sources of funding such as NSF REUs (Research Experience for Undergrads) and from the office of the VPDUE. COR also agreed to meet with the Deans of the Academic Divisions in fall quarter to discuss their vision of research priorities.