

DRAFT Minutes
Committee on Research
October 25, 2011

The Committee on Research met at 2:00 pm on Tuesday, October 25, 2011 in 307 Kerr Hall.

Present: Scott Oliver (chair), Elisabeth Cameron, Nathaniel Deutsch, Sri Kurniawan, Debra Lewis, Deborah Letourneau, Hamid Sadjadpour, Kim Smith (ASO)

Absent with Notice: David Koo

Guest: VCR Bruce Margon

Chair's Announcements

- The EVC may not be doing an Administrative Review of the Office or Research this year after all.
- MOU on the Multi-campus Research Unit (MRU):
“A Multi-campus Research Unit (MRU) includes (1) all units with facilities and personnel on two or more UC campuses or locations associated with them, and (2) all units with facilities at a single location or near one of the campuses if the participation of faculty or staff from other campuses is so extensive as to give such a unit a University-wide character.”
Scott informed the group that in addition to the UC Discovery Program, UCOP defunded the MRU on campus, “Institute of Geophysics and Planetary Physics (IGPP)”. The Dept of Earth & Planetary Sciences will be absorbing those funds: \$18,600 deficit, part of two FTEs and a permanent budget of \$15,500.
Action: Scott will make this document available to Kim for posting on the COR website.
- Scott invited COR to look at previous Annual Reports and minutes on the COR website, if they are so inclined.
- SEC meeting was this morning. EVC Galloway discussed her 5 point plan and budget issues. It was mentioned that middle class applications were down by 8-10%, which is troubling considering rising tuition. The VP and Dean of Undergraduate Education Richard Hughey also visited later. He has opened an Office of Student Research with no funding at present, but a place where students can get information about grants and funding opportunities. He also mentioned a new Chancellor's Undergraduate Research Internship. Scott had wanted to get a stipend going for students; if something is already set up, then we can keep COR funds for SRGs.
Action: Scott will contact the VPDUE regarding the new office and internship.
- An ACIT Rep from COR is still needed. Debra Lewis volunteered if it ends up that no one else wants to do it. We will revisit and make a final decision before Nov 16th, ACIT's next meeting.

General Topics

1. “Proactive Agenda”:

SEC says that committees should have a proactive agenda, so Scott asked COR to please think about some ideas. Some discussion and ideas evolved:

- Bridge with other Committees
- Convocation on Research
- Reaching out to Divisional Chairs to find faculty to honor
- Acknowledgments, awards
- Undergraduate Research Awards
- Endowments by individual donors
- Find out which Divisions have individual research awards
- Could COR sponsor a grant writing workshop?
- How many Divisions have grant writers?

We will come back to this subject for our next meeting.

2. SRGs and FRGs:

Should we freeze SRGs and carry the money forward to next year? We were cut ~ \$220,000 over the last several years; in fact, all state funding is gone. One member stated that the website lists that SRGs have been suspended. COR agreed to not suspend them, but to make them very competitive, and ideally make as little change as possible. There will be NFRGs for new faculty soon: there were only 6 new hires this year, and last year there were 9.

Action: the COR website will be updated regarding SRGs, and the call for NFRGs will soon go out.

3. Acquiring a Student Representative (GSAA, SUA):

The chair raised the question as to why COR does not have any student reps, if UCORP has them? The COR analyst advised the committee that according to current Senate by-laws, COR cannot have a student. Current bylaw of the Academic Senate states:

Committee on Research Charge:

13.27.1 There are nine Santa Cruz Division members, including at least one and no more than three members from each academic division and the School of Engineering.

Action: Analyst to provide information to COR on how they should proceed.

4. Future Consultations:

The chair encouraged members to consider people they would like to invite to future COR meetings. Among the possibilities suggested:

- Gordon Ringold – Silicon Valley Initiatives (Kim is waiting to hear back from GR)
- Office of Research group: Larry Castro, Vanessa Tollefson and Caitlen Deck

- Peggy Delaney to discuss and answer questions regarding the budget (Analyst to set-up)
- Richard Hughey – VPDUE regarding undergraduate research support
- Andrea Hesse – ITS Director, Academic Client Relationship Management

5. Negotiated Salary Program

The overall opinion from COR was that it was very unclear whether such as program would be in compliance with NSF. In addition, the PI would need to continuously bring in funding to maintain the higher salary. It seems to be a program to avoid retention packages and merit salary increases. With a response not due until November 17th, we'll carry this over to our next meeting to begin formulating a letter/response. There was some discussion about indirect costs and the importance of knowing where all that money was going. UCOP gets these funds first, then it flows to the 10 campuses, some of which is formulaic and other aspects not transparent.

Action: Scott will provide Kim with a copy of Indirect Cost Allocations report from CPB several years ago to post on the COR website.

Consultation with VCR Margon

VCR Margon stated that he's fairly sure that the Federal Sponsoring Agencies would not be promoting the Negotiated Salary Program and he thinks it's a waste of time talking about it – adding that UC Provost, Lawrence Pitts continues to confuse the issue with the medical side of things. Comments from COR are that it's simply not possible for certain divisions such as the Arts. VCR Margon stated that the granting agencies will never go for this, so he's not sure why it continues to be discussed by UCOP.

The Office of Administrative Review asked EVC Galloway if she would delay the external review of the Office of Research due to short staffing. VCR Margon said he would consult and get back to COR with that information.

Budget cuts: Last year's target cut was reduced by the EVC since the Office of Research is revenue-generating. The VCR therefore did not have to lay off any people. Cuts were taken from the overall Office of Research budget.

Scott asked about the situation for matching funds, specifically MRI's. VCR Margon responded that the campus never fails to submit our maximum amount of proposals to MRI, which range up to 5 million dollars. Most of the money comes from Kerr Hall, 30% from passing the hat to other Divisions and Departments, and with the use of some funding money. Scott mentioned that CORs at other UCs participate in the downselect process of internal pre-proposals. VCR Margon stated that though possible, whomever participates needs to arrive to the meeting with only a 3 day window and having read up to 1,000 pages of material. He stated the current process has been seamless and that the campus has been highly successful in the MRI program.

Currently, the five Deans and the Dean of the graduate school meets with him and they have always voted unanimously, never having a problem with any lack of altruism. Large universities have as many as 40 proposals to consider, whereas our campus has relatively few and sometimes does not even need to down-select.

The meeting adjourned at 3:40pm.

So Attests,

Scott Oliver, Chair
Committee on Research (COR)