

**Minutes
Committee on Research
December 6th, 2011**

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

Absent with notice: Hamid Sadjadpour, Nathaniel Deutsch

Guests: Gordon Ringold, VCR Margon

Chair's Announcements:

University Committee on Research Policy (UCORP) – Scott learned at the last meeting that UCSC COR holds the most physical meetings per year compared to all other 9 campuses.

VCR Margon had a discussion with the COR Chair about University of California Observatories (UCO) and Lick Observatory, whose long term funding, including many faculty and staff FTEs, are being reconsidered by UCOP and VP Steven Beckwith (who last year cancelled the UC Discovery Program, despite UCORP's advisement). UCORP will discuss UCO further next week. UCO faculty lines are currently funded 80% by UCOP and 20% by UCSC. Lick observatory does a lot of outreach and long term data collection. Scott will keep everyone updated on any new news.

The funds for computational racks at the SDSC supercomputing center are still there. We'll review the call we put out last January and put another call out in the winter quarter if the funds are still devoted to this use.

For the first meeting next year, COR needs to do an annual review of all FRG and SRG guidelines before the call goes out. The latter will have a significantly lower success rate this year due to COR budget cuts.

Grant Applications:

COR reviewed the 3rd version of an NFRG grant application. There was discussion on whether or not COR funds can be used to pay a grad student. COR will be reviewing grant guidelines in the New Year. We should think about striking "supplies" from grant applications in the future, because they can be funded by a professor's department. Decision on 3rd version of the application: NFRG grant approved.

Timeslot Proposal:

The administration and VPDUE offered a second version of proposed changes to the teaching time slots in order to open up large lecture hall time slots. Scott brought up the point that the bus situation on campus is really bad after cuts to service. Giving students less than 15 min to travel between classes is going to be extremely difficult. SEC also had lengthy discussion about the timeslot proposal and whether or not they can rush through a decision on this. Scott was the only one on the committee to propose the construction of a new lecture hall building. Jack Baskin agreed to purchase a new building but there are discussions on campus regarding design. Any conference center needs to be multi-functional and not solely for engineering. The newer auditorium does this well.

Other Issues:

Pre-proposals for the National Science Foundation (NSF) Major Research Instrumentation (MRI) program are due this Friday: 3 pages, including budget.

Pradip Masharak (COC Member) would like to visit COR in the New Year, wanting to know if anyone is interested in continuing on with COR service for next year. Scott has agreed to chair for a second year.

Guest: Gordon Ringold – Director, Silicon Valley Initiatives

Gordon last visited COR in February 2011 and in this meeting gave a firsthand update on Silicon Valley research. He first asked if there were any issues COR wanted to know about. COR wanted the Director to begin. Since COR is mostly a new group, he started from scratch. He gave an overview of ongoing activities in Silicon Valley, which are the Extension Program and UARC – between NASA and UCSC, now into year 9 of a 10 year contract which was initiated by Marcie Greenwood when she was Chancellor. There are currently 2 major activities; there are about 120 UCSC employees working for NASA today. UCSC is largely a contractor for NASA, which was not the original intention of the grant. Bernie Le Beouf has been hired as the new director of UARC, which was news to COR. UARC generates approximately \$25M per year, with \$4M per year overhead coming to the campus. They are about to award \$600k in grants to UC faculty who are aligned with NASA's interests, specifically, support for grad students in groups already funded by AMES. The groups work on aviation, green aviation, helicopters and helium for airships moving payloads and come from UC Berkeley, UCLA and UCSC (in the Applied Math and Statistics Program). Another student is supported in Information Sciences.

At present, several faculty from physics and EE have labs at AMES and use equipment at the Advanced Studies Laboratories (ASL). Its microscopes came in the day of earmarks. A local congressman and ASL were able to buy \$ 3M of state-of-the-art instrumentation, but it had to be in an academic kind of mode. COR was surprised to learn that UC owns the microscopes. While wet

lab space is needed, efforts by SOE for building out in SV will initially be in the computer sciences and the tech info management group. The goal is not to move undergrads over there, but to build grad programs, like a professional masters program taught by UNEX and engineers that could use an infrastructure beneficial to all. 12,000 students went through there last year. The second program is with JJ Luna – a network science institute. They have 5 faculty at present. The Director contends that a dozen faculty and 20 to 30 graduate students would be an anchor/fish hook in the valley, and that it's "up to the Chancellor, EVC and the two Deans to build the corporate relationships".

One COR member asked if there are any workshops/seminars for these future collaborations? The response was that there have been some, largely sponsored by NASA. AMES contends that there were some attempts in the past where no one showed up. "There's been no open outreach or communication on either side – a true management problem." COR contends this is a paramount mistake by both sides, and greatly jeopardizes any upcoming renewal of the UARC. New efforts led by Dave Deamer and Sandy Faber with a joint UCSC-AMES meeting in Astrobiology are encouraging, and there needs to be more of this type of dialogue.

Consultation with VCR Margon (first visit in last two COR meetings):

The only news from the VCR was the rollout to the patent agreement, which many thought was e-mail spam. The Provost sent all employees an e-mail before the rollout and the VCR spoke to all the department chairs about it. This is an issue between UCOP and employees. How many will actually sign is an open question. The VCRs of the 10 campuses all agree this might turn into a huge issue. Employees will certainly continue to be e-mailed to sign the patent agreement.

Follow-up from the UCLA IT meeting in November; UCSD has a huge space to fill and 6 of the 10 campuses are not at all interested in the San Diego Supercomputer Center (SDSC). EVC Galloway is very aware of the controversy. The \$1M (which came from UCOP) is still there for us. COR has requested to spend the money on other initiatives in the past. The VCR has brought this matter up with VCIT Mary Doyle several times, but will ask EVC Galloway about it and get back to COR.

The VCR and COR also discussed UCO and its possible reduction in budget.

The meeting adjourned at 3:35 pm.

So Attests,

Scott Oliver, Chair

Committee on Research (COR)