

**MINUTES**  
**Committee on Research**  
**January 15, 2013**

**Present:** Scott Oliver (chair), Elisabeth Cameron, Nathaniel Deutsch, David Koo, Sri Kurniawan, Debra Lewis, Barbara Rogoff, Fitnat Yildiz, Andrew Smith (GSA), Mary-Beth Harhen (Senate Director), Matt Robinson (Committee Analyst)

**Absent with Notice:** Deborah Letourneau

**Committee Business**

Chair Oliver provided a brief update from the December 10, 2012 UCORP meeting. UC San Diego is going ahead with the Negotiated Salary Plan, while UC Irvine voted it down. The Portfolio Research Group (PRG), which will set priorities for UCOP research funding, has been formed. The Chair and Vice Chair of UCORP are members of the PRG. The UC Astronomy Board has also been formed. UCSC Vice Chancellor, Planning and Budget Peggy Delaney is a member.

The UCSC Library has a fund of \$20,000 available to defray the costs of open access publishing for faculty. The Committee on the Library and Scholarly Communication (COLASC) has asked to consult with COR regarding the adjudication of these funds. Chair Oliver's initial response is that these funds would be handled much the same way as COR handles Scholarly Meeting Travel (SMT) requests, with all-but automatic approval without adjudication. More consultation with COLASC is planned.

The minutes from COR's December 4, 2012 meeting were approved as written.

**COR Review of Office of Research (OR) Self-Study**

The committee discussed the stakeholder survey results included with the OR Self-Study document. These results were shared only with COR at the committee's request, and were not disseminated to the entire Senate. COR remarked that no reminders were sent out during the survey collection period, resulting in a low response rate and data that does not accurately represent campus feelings towards OR.

The committee commented on the following aspects of the Self-Study in preparation for a COR response:

- Potential restructuring of the office to include an Associate Vice Chancellor for Research
- The benefits of OR staff embedded in the division rather than being centralized
- Overemphasis on compliance and a tendency to increase the bureaucratic workload of PIs
- Perceived favoritism towards hard sciences and engineering at the expense of Social Sciences, Arts, and Humanities
- Lack of quantitative reporting from OR regarding proposals submitted, proposals funded, industrial funding of research, patent applications, patents awarded and results of supported projects/approved patents

**Consultation with Dean of School of Engineering Art Ramirez**

Dean Ramirez provided an update on his efforts to create a materials program at UCSC. Currently, UCSC is the only UC campus without such a program, despite having many materials science faculty members and \$20 million of infrastructure and equipment. Dean Ramirez explained that after initial attempts, he is awaiting a cohesive plan from the Physical and Biological Science (PBSci) Division, citing the recent external reviews of Chemistry and Physics that encouraged both departments to increase materials research.

Regarding the external review of OR and the current search for a new Vice Chancellor for Research (VCR), Dean Ramirez outlined his hopes that the new VCR be able to better represent UCSC not only in Washington, DC but also in Silicon Valley. A main function of the VCR ought to be to inform program managers in DC about the ongoing research at UCSC and bringing knowledge of new programs and funding opportunities back to campus.

COR inquired about the School of Engineering (SOE) plans to increase their number of Ph.D. students. Dean Ramirez explained that SOE has many ways to grow graduate numbers. Three areas of potential growth are: big data; sustainability; and biomedical engineering. SOE is currently below the systemwide average of Ph.D. students per faculty. The inability to make multi-year commitments to potential graduate students has been a major obstacle to increasing the numbers of Ph.D. students in SOE.

COR inquired about Dean Ramirez's approach to research support in SOE. Dean Ramirez explained that he works to provide his faculty with seed money or additional funds to close gaps in GSR funding. He is particularly supportive of new research centers, as centers give the campus more leverage for external funding.

Dean Ramirez offered a final thought on the number of trends—online education, rising tuition/fees, competition from overseas, etc.—that are conspiring to put pressure on the undergraduate experience. He believes the campus ought to rethink undergraduate education and endeavor to get students into research earlier so that they are prepared to enter Ph.D. programs by graduation. Dean Ramirez encouraged COR to be forward-thinking and work to increase the amount of research done at the undergraduate level. This idea may come at the expense of a traditional liberal arts education.

COR agreed to explore the current Comprehensive Campaign emphasis on the undergraduate experience and see if there is a place for COR to begin supporting undergraduate research.

#### **Consultation with Dean of Arts David Yager**

Dean Yager thanked the committee for the high level of support the Arts Division has received from COR grants programs over the past five years. Recalling the New Faculty Research Grant (NFRG) program run in the fall quarter for faculty hired July 1, he raised the issue of new faculty hired January 1. COR agreed to explore running two cycles for NFRGs, allowing January new-hires an opportunity for research funds. Dean Yager also requested that he be notified when his faculty receive COR grants. COR agreed to include all deans in the award summary emails that go to the divisional budget offices each year when Faculty Research Grants (FRGs) and Special Research Grants (SRGs) are approved.

Dean Yager explained that the Arts Research Institute (ARI) awards around \$200,000 per year and has been sheltered from the continuing budget cuts affecting the Division. He partnered with ARI to hire a grant writer for the Division. In the first sixteen months since the establishment of this position, the Arts Division put out 138 proposals and brought in \$838,000. In the previous two years, the Division put out 30 applications for a total of \$25,000. ARI's current investment of \$40,000 to partially fund this position has had clear positive results. The ARI budget comes from the Dean's general operating budget but Arts faculty have ownership over it. There are currently six research centers seed-funded by the Dean's budget. After three years, these centers must be self-sufficient in their funding. Dean Yager explained that many art foundations will not allow for overhead to be charged to grants, making it difficult for his Division to generate grant-related revenue.

COR asked about the search for a new VCR. Dean Yager explained that the new VCR must be holistically focused or they will not succeed. Three Divisions (Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences) bring in little to no overhead but UCSC has a tradition of valuing these areas. The new VCR cannot move in a different direction, only emphasizing areas that bring in large overhead.

COR asked about the Arts Division plans to increase Ph.D. students. Dean Yager explained that though Arts Ph.D. programs could grow, they are underfunded, especially in stipends for graduate students. If programs grow by adding faculty, lack of support for graduate students will remain a problem.

Dean Yager noted a change in the culture of the Arts regarding the availability of external funding for research. The recent success of ARI has shown that money is indeed available. Regarding use of the Dean's budget to support faculty research, Dean Yager explained that he will not grant money unless faculty have already applied for ARI and COR grants. In the past, he has used his budget to fully support faculty participation in the Guggenheim and Fulbright Programs, closing the gap between the award amount and the faculty member's salary.

COR briefly discussed coordination with ARI but determined that there is value to having the two programs (FRG/SRG and ARI) reviewing grant proposals through unique lenses. ARI already requires that faculty apply for COR funds before applying for ARI grants.

The meeting adjourned at 4:05 pm