MINUTES
Committee on Research
October 9, 2012

The Committee on Research (COR) met at 2:00 pm on Tuesday, October 9, 2012 in 307 Kerr Hall.

Present: Scott Oliver (chair), David Koo, Debra Lewis, Deborah Letourneau, Barbara Rogoff, Mary-Beth Harhen (Senate Director), Matt Robinson (Committee Analyst)

Absent with Notice: Elisabeth Cameron, Nathaniel Deutsch, Fitnat Yildiz

Absent without Notice: Sri Kurniawan

Chair’s Announcements, Members’ Items
Chair Oliver provided an update on items discussed at the 10/8/12 UCORP meeting, including the implementation of Funding Streams, the Governor’s veto of graduate student researchers’ effort to unionize, new lab safety policies for Chemistry & Biochemistry departments systemwide, and the planned increase in Indirect Cost Recovery (ICR) of one half percent this year. Chair Oliver reported that the Academic Council Special Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources (ACSCANR) needs a new member and COR member LeTourneau expressed interest.

Chair Oliver reported that UC Vice President for Research and Graduate Students Steven Beckwith is willing to visit CORs throughout the system. The committee agreed to plan a consultation with VCR Beckwith to discuss the UC Astronomy Board, given the Senate’s opposition to the makeup and charge of this organization.

Chair Oliver also provided an update on items discussed at the 10/9/12 Senate Executive Committee (SEC) meeting. The main issue concerning COR is that of aspirational graduate growth. The campus is receiving approximately two million dollars a year over the next five years to grow the percentage of Ph.D. students (relative to undergraduate students), with a goal of twelve percent. Currently, the percentage of Ph.D. students on campus is near five percent. COR discussed various factors contributing to low graduate student percentages on campus, including:

- Fewer faculty available to supervise graduate students
- UCSC general policy to provide full support for graduate students
- Lack of TA-ships
- Lack of professional schools
- A flawed philosophy that graduate student groups should be capped at seven

COR decided to plan a consultation with Vice Provost and Dean of Graduate Studies Tyrus Miller to discuss various data on graduate students on campus.

Approval of Minutes
The COR minutes of September 25, 2012 were approved with one correction.
Scholarly Meeting Travel (SMT)
The committee reviewed the updated SMT guidelines document that incorporates the four policy changes approved at the previous COR meeting. The new policies will take affect concurrently with a new online application system. COR members will be testing the new online system before the next meeting.

New Faculty Research Grants (NFRGs)
The committee reviewed the application for NFRGs and proposed changes. The following NFRG deadlines were approved:

- Applications Open: Monday 10/15/12
- Applications Due: Tuesday 11/13/12, 5:00 pm
- NFRG Adjudication: COR Meeting 11/20/12
- Award Notification: Wednesday 11/21/12

Faculty Research Grant (FRG)/Special Research Grant (SRG) Update
The committee edited and approved an email message announcing the new deadlines for FRG/SRG applications. The committee then reviewed the guideline documents for FRGs and SRGs. Members made suggestions for further streamlining the documents and questioned the need to have the documents at all. The committee agreed to delete the entire Frequently Asked Questions section and to continue the editing process online and review the documents for approval at the next meeting.

Proactive Agenda
Member LeTourneau updated the committee on the status of south campus, explaining a five million dollar grant received to repair the barn. The university will not pay for a feasibility study, meaning that it is unclear if the grant will fully cover the repair costs. COR agreed to endorse a letter stating that south campus is an important facility and outdoor laboratory that ought to be properly funded. COR further discussed future invites to meetings including the VCR, EVC and the Deans.

Rebenching Report
The committee briefly discussed the proposed plan for increased transparency and equity in the formula for allocating state funds across the ten UC campuses. The committee agreed, though, that more time was needed to review the document and prepare a response. COR’s response will be drafted in the next meeting.

Proposed Pilot Plan for Negotiated Salary
COR members noted that this program is going forward despite wide opposition from the Senate last year. One member noted that this policy can lead to cannibalizing research dollars and reducing the amount of graduate students and research efforts that can be funded. Another member stated that in the spirit of shared governance, the administration owes the Senate an account of their reasoning for going through with policies that the Senate opposes so strongly. COR agreed to respond to the Proposed Pilot Plan in the same manner as last year, reiterating the comments made in the Senate response dated November 18, 2011.
APM 700 – Leaves of Absence
The committee agreed that so long as there is an appeals process for extraordinary circumstances, a policy such as this is reasonable. A response to SEC to this effect will be drafted.

The meeting adjourned at 4:00 pm

So attests,
Scott Oliver, Chair
Committee on Research