

MINUTES
Committee on Research
October 23, 2012

Present: Scott Oliver (chair), Nathaniel Deutsch, David Koo, Deborah LeTourneau, Barbara Rogoff, Fitnat Yildiz, Andrew Smith (GSA), Mary-Beth Harhen (Senate Director), Matt Robinson (Committee Analyst)

Absent with Notice: Elisabeth Cameron, Sri Kurniawan, Debra Lewis

Chair's Announcements, Members' Items

Chair Oliver provided an update from the October 23, 2012 Senate Executive Committee (SEC) meeting. Roberto Manduchi, chair of the Committee on Library and Scholarly Communication (COLASC) visited SEC to explain the proposed Open Access Policy, which COR has been asked to review.

The minutes from COR's October 9, 2012 meeting were approved with minor changes.

SMT Change Implementation

The committee discussed an implementation date for the changes to the SMT program that were approved in its September 25, 2012 meeting. The committee agreed to implement the flat rate award (eliminating the \$650/\$1000 system) on July 1, 2013. Any faculty eligible for a \$1000 award will be able to use it this year. Effective July 1, 2013, all SMT awards will be a maximum of \$700.

The online application system—including the new fourteen-day advance application, elimination of department chair signature and clarified eligibility rules—will go live in November. The committee also decided to incorporate the SMT FAQ document into the website in order to streamline the application and benefit the faculty's time as much as possible.

FRG/SRG

COR discussed minor changes to the FRG and SRG Guidelines documents that will be posted on the public website. COR also agreed to reach out to department chairs *via* email to continue the advertisement that the deadlines for COR grants have changed this year. The application for FRGs and SRGs will be reviewed by COR members before the November 20, 2012 meeting.

Pre-Consultation for EVC Galloway

In preparation for the upcoming consultation with EVC Galloway, the committee discussed the prominent position that research has been given in recent university public relations and the positive impact COR grants have had on the overall research mission at UCSC. The committee also discussed ways to collect data on the impact of COR grants, such as through additional questions on the FRG/SRG application, coordination with the Chancellor's Office to collect faculty award listings, and beginning an annual call for COR grant results and impact.

Pre-Consultation for Graduate Dean Miller

In preparation for the upcoming consultation with Vice Provost and Dean of Graduate Studies Miller, the committee discussed various ways to increase graduate student enrollments across campus.

Rebenching Report

The committee discussed the Rebenching Report. Written by the Rebenching Budget Committee, the Rebenching Report is the second phase of the University's overhaul of its internal budgeting processes. The intent of rebenching is to increase transparency and equity in the formula for allocating state funds across the ten campuses. Members expressed concern that the larger campuses could easily be favored since enrollment targets are governed by the Office of the President. Mechanisms must be in place to ensure that each campus' enrollment targets are reasonable and fair. Members also noted that the policy does not address online enrollments. With anticipated growth of UC online courses at some campuses, the enrollment policy must address how online enrollments will count towards the targets.

APM-430, Visiting Scholars

The committee briefly discussed the Proposed New APM-430, Visiting Scholars, which would create a new title to accommodate domestic and international visitors who are students enrolled in universities in the United States and abroad, and academics employed at other institutions who are visiting the UC for short-term academic or cultural exchange experiences. COR noted that the current lack of a title for these types of visitors to campus has led to a loss in some research support on campus. Overall, the committee agreed that this new policy was reasonable.

Consultation with VCR Margon

Vice Chancellor of Research (VCR) Margon informed COR that he will be returning to the faculty as of July 1, 2013 after seven years in his current position. A national search for a new VCR will be conducted. VCR Margon also updated the committee on the new Office of Research website and the hiring of a new employee in the Office of Intellectual Property which will free the director to work more directly with the divisions.

VCR Margon provided an update on the upcoming external review of the Office of Research. Before an external review committee comes to campus, the unit will complete a self-study, which will include survey requests to everyone on campus with whom the Office of Research has interacted. The self-study will then go to the Senate this quarter for review.

The funds available at UCSC for purchasing hardware at the San Diego Supercomputer Center are still on hold. As no one has stepped forward to ask for these funds, COR members asked if faculty could access these funds to purchase computational time from a third party—such as Amazon. COR will follow up on this issue.

The new overhead rates went into effect July 1, 2012 and UCSC received a slight increase. The previous rate of 51% did not cover the cost of research the VCR pointed out—actual costs of research are closer to 80%—and the new rate will go up 0.5% each year for the next five years. Large increases in overhead rates necessarily lead to less grant money going directly to research. The VCR agreed that universities must invest in research and cannot expect all costs to be covered by indirect cost recovery.

The Faculty Salary Exchange Program, a new program advertised by the EVC and originated from UCOP, gives faculty with sponsored projects the ability to use their research funds to pay a portion of their academic year salary. This will free up state funds that would have covered that part of the academic year and is free of the restrictions of the original granting agencies. These state funds can then be used by the faculty for research or travel. Deans may charge a “tax” for this transfer due to the administrative work of charging salary to the grant funds and freeing up the state funds.

The fringe benefit rate calculations are changing to a composite rate across campus and VCR Margon will update COR on this during a future meeting. Also, many faculty have yet to sign the Patent Agreement Amendment. Faculty cannot submit or accept awards until they have signed and the Office of Research has had to hold back some awards and grants due to the faculty member not having completed the process.

The meeting adjourned at 4:00 pm