Present: Steve Whittaker (chair), Brandin Baron-Nusbaum, Matthew Clapham, Fernando Leiva, Sharon Daniel, John Bowin
Absent with Notice: Jarmilia Pittermann, John Musacchio

Conducting Committee Business
Chair Whittaker reviewed the committee’s purview discussed the best way to structure COR’s work this year. COR reviewed and approved the Consultation and Confidentiality Agreements. COR also agreed to extend an invitation to VCR Brandt to regularly attend COR meetings for an hour.

COR Proactive Agenda for 2015-16
The committee considered the main issues to address this year. Those continuing or identified from last year are:

Shared facilities and equipment: COR discussed doing a shared facilities audit or inventory this year looking at not just existing shared facilities, but what it would take to make some facilities sharable. Not having staff to administer the facilities or act as support is a major obstacle. Also, COR will define the benefit of having more shared resources and making access to them more transparent such as; recruitment of faculty, planning research projects, leveraging existing resources for external grants and collaborations.

Faculty computing support: COR sees a lot of requests for basic computer replacement during the grant proposal reviews. Last year COR started collecting divisional computer replacement policies and raised the issue with the EVC in a consultation. COR will discuss how to approach this problem. Similarly, there is also a lack of research space adequate for faculty to do their work.

Outstanding dissertation award: COR understands this to be in the Grad Dean’s hands to implement, but it seems to be stalled. COR discussed pursing having the award just run through the Academic Deans. They already do this type of award for undergraduates.

Graduate Growth: the committee agreed to review the Joint Task Force on Graduate Growth Report at its next meeting since graduate education and research are linked.

Research Themes: need to better engage the press, legislature and the governor’s office in the research mission of the university. Many other universities use Research Themes that are intended to create an outward focus presentation for research. Some universities create incentives for working collaboratively or cross-disciplinary on the themes. COR will explore identifying themes that are resonant with UCSC faculty and possibly make them prominent in the call for FRG/SRG proposals. In his initial meeting with the COR Chair, VCR Brandt
indicated interest in providing some matching funds for successful proposals that were related to the themes. COR agreed to start with the previous work done by CPB in the context of the Faculty Initiated Group Hire (FIGH) process.

**Internationalization:** The campus emphasis on international engagement includes research collaborations. COR will review the job description for the newly created position of Vice Provost International Engagement when it is available.

**Review the COR Charge:** COR agreed to review the committee charge in Winter Quarter. The work of the committee has expanded to include more policy work and proactive agenda items in the last few years, rather than just adjudicating grants. So it is time to see if the charge is still an accurate reflection the committee’s work.

**Silicon Valley:** Last year 14 faculty FTE were withheld from the recruitment cycle. There doesn’t seem to be a lot of faculty support, and the call for using the FTE was based on graduate education. There may be issues for COR to look at; how to facilitate research collaborations with faculty “over the hill”, how to mentor junior faculty located there, considering the form of the graduate thesis, especially if the work is sponsored by industry, and intellectual property rights.

**FRG/SRG Programs and Deadlines**
The deadlines have been set FRG/SRG and are about the same as last year. COR agreed to talk about the programs in the context of developing research themes at their next meeting.