

**COMMITTEE ON RESEARCH  
MINUTES  
October 18, 2016**

**Present:** Steve Whittaker (*chair*), Karen Bassi, Daniel Costa, Fernando Leiva, Longzhi Lin, Todd Lowe, Gustavo Vasquez, Ahmet Ali Yanik, Daniel Oliver (GSR), Scott Brandt (Vice Chancellor for Research), Mohamed Abousalem (AVC Industry Alliances & Intellectual Property), Audrey Levine (RD Director), Steve Campbell (AVC Research Administration & Compliance)

**Standing Guest, VCR Scott Brandt's Office of Research Introductions**

VCR Brandt introduced the Office of Research team members to the committee, two of whom are new to the campus.

Mohamed Abousalem, Assistant Vice Chancellor for Industry Alliances & Intellectual Property, recently came to UCSC from industry and applied research. AVC Abousalem will work more broadly with industries, take advantage of opportunities to licenses, improve intellectual property, and set up more services for faculty. He will create industry alliances such as internship, development, commercialization, and entrepreneurship. He recently sent a letter of intent to the Office of the President for the innovation and entrepreneurship program (\$2.2 million).

Steve Campbell, Assistant Vice Chancellor for Research Administration & Compliance will oversee faculty services and compliance. He's creating an export control committee to be involved in policies to transport and ship items from campus, such as bacteria, software, hardware, microscope, etc. There are local policy and procedures but it's an intricate matter with legal implications for faculty. A member relayed to AVC Campbell that there are increasing impediments in working with the Office of Sponsored Projects. The office is facing turnover with new employees and there are challenges in working with faculty but they are committed to providing good services.

**Presentation from OR's Research Development Director Audrey Levine**

Research Development Director Levine is new to her position and is learning about the portfolio of the campus and is distinguishing between thematic and non-thematic research. She wants to understand the campus research interest and capabilities, research enterprise (SWOT analysis), outreach to funding agency (create a critical mass), and review the limited submission programs. Director Levine will create strategies and design tools to support multiple proposal and funding. A member raised the issue that some grants need a long lead time and in order to take advantage of these opportunities there needs to be more communication and an organizing mechanism. It would be helpful to have a neutral place for team building and to find opportunities through grant matching, and facilitating proposals. She hopes to work with the Office of Sponsored Projects on an upfront and proactive coordination.

VCR Brandt highlighted that the Office of Sponsored Projects is supposed to receive completed proposal that is ready for submission and that deal breakers for funding agencies is the data management and evidence of post-doctoral research involvement. She mentioned that some agencies will do a preliminary review or the campus could do mock reviews of proposals. NSF and NIH will fund workshops and have publications to guide researchers on the scope of their research design. Members noted this could be useful exercise to help faculty crystallize their research idea and be repurpose for other uses. Grant support can be division specific and as support varies (some division have less of a technical background) with grant writing and proofreading. The committee agreed it would be useful to have grant writing support and assistance in putting together a competitive proposal by mapping out plan to write and translating the application for faculty, for example identify the obligatory information.

The committee would like to see more collaboration and interdisciplinary research, collective versus individual researchers. The conversation on campus about Silicon Valley tends to be about Engineering and members wanted to add that interdisciplinary related to the social science and technology is important. There is potential to connect and collaborate between technology with the Humanities, Arts, Social Sciences division. Grant support seems un-even and there is an unspoken hierarchy. A member raised his concern that the Office of Research will only respond to a for-profit model of research, therefore it's important for members to transmit faculty concerns and request for uniform support across the division. The committee would like to continue to have a good working relationship with the Office of Research and find opportunities to collaborate and align objectives.

The discussion turned to the Center of Excellence proposal that Vice Chancellor for Research mentioned that it is being reviewed by the CP/EVC Galloway. Members noted the proposal may be a way for the campus to receive funding it cannot otherwise receive and it was noted that the committee will review and have an opportunity to comment.

### **2016-17 Special Research Grant Themes**

Chair shared with members that the “faculty initiated group hires” idea came about by inquiring faculty, and the committee could potentially use the same approach to garner interest through text mining or simple up-votes. It was noted there should be reasonable criteria to decide on the collaborative proposal that will receive additional funding. There are various practices within the divisions and it seems the deans don’t communicate with each other and are protective of their resource. Team-teaching was discussed, but challenges in the intersection of teaching, research and grant program eligibility.

The committee decided they would like the grant program to focus on collaboration which could identify hotspots and be a mechanism for targeting larger scale collaboration research. Emphasizing collaborations may foster and widen the conversation on campus and help with the graduate initiative while themes tend to narrow rather than expand. It has the potential to bring graduate students to work together since the special research grant can fund half of a graduate student researcher.