

**COMMITTEE ON RESEARCH
MINUTES
November 15, 2016**

Present: Steve Whittaker (*chair*), Karen Bassi, Fernando Leiva, Longzhi Lin, Todd Lowe, Gustavo Vasquez, Ahmet Ali Yanik, Daniel Oliver (GSR)

Absent: Daniel Costa

Announcement

Chair informed members that CPB has reviewed the Office of Research and Graduate Division's Center of Excellence proposal. The proposal indicates it's a costly program, holding six FTE from the School of Engineering and Physical and Biological Sciences division. Its administratively heavy and will demand faculty time due to the periodic review of the Center. Chair asked members to urgently review the forwarded proposal to provide the committee's comments and feedback to CP/EVC Galloway.

The committee briefly discussed the campus' previous attempt at research and graduate growth, such as the faculty initiated group hires program. A member inquired about the success of the program and it seems the results has been mixed. The concern was raised that the judgment for awarding research is very subjective therefore difficult to gauge the success of these projects. Another concern was the sustainability of these centers and the additional workload for faculty since it seems the GSI buy-out is low.

COR's Faculty Research Program

Chair reviewed the new faculty research program, requesting for members to review for a plan, budget, and output. COR does not fund generic equipment nor request to publish on Open Access. Chair asked members to complete the review of their assigned proposals by November 28.

Continue Consulting with Research Director Audrey Levine

Director Levine continued to assist the committee in developing the idea of collaboration research to seed fund through the special research grant program. Chair reviewed the draft of the collaboration call which will require one other campus collaborator in order to receive a match in seed funding. Members reviewed the draft document and suggested various edits to clarify the intention and guide faculty. It was advised that the researchers should answer the question of what, why, and how they're collaborating. The application should request faculty ability to collaborate and ability to work with graduate students. Members hope the collaboration call will create the positive effect of cultivating new collaborations for faculty and provide more opportunity for faculty to work with the Research Development unit.

Another member suggested adding a one-page report requirement from awarded proposals and request that researchers be open to improving the projects for external funds. Other "follow-up" ideas for the collaboration proposals included bringing all the collaborators together to interact, create a six month check-point, or a survey which may help fuel collaboration across the campus. Lastly include in the guidelines that awardee document the output and for any publication to send it to the Office of Research.

Presentation from Office of Research's Assistant Vice Chancellor Mohamed Abousalem

AVC for Industry Alliances & Intellectual Property Abousalam introduced the committee to the Office of Research's new Industry Alliances & Technology Commercialization unit and presented his plans for this academic year through teleconference. The committee is interested in learning about his vision and role in intellectual property, licensing and spinouts. He shared the Office of Research has been reactive in relations to intellectual property contracts, disclosures, and is reviewing the quality and level of service. The unit is still recruiting for four position and University Relations will be supporting with various positions. There will be a shift in focus to look externally to licensing and industries.

In relations to industry alliance, there will be investment, internship (master programs), and licensing royalties. Industrial grants for research is a possibility. For example, he will assist supporting, incubating, and networking faculty and graduate students in computer science who are interested in working on a start-up business. Members raised the conflict of interest and

AVC Abousalem noted they will be involved in managing the conflict. Member requested to see a charter and/or term of reference for the Patent Advisory Committee that will be created. Member asked about the history of entrepreneur initiatives on campus and he shared that he is still learning about the campus landscape.

UC has approximately \$22 million from the State of California Bill AB-2665 for economic development through innovation and entrepreneurship and it's anticipated the campus will receive \$2.2 million to go toward such projects on campus. There are about six programs planned, two of the programs highlighted were the Silicon Valley incubator/accelerator and proof of concept grant applications for commercialization (\$10k to \$15k). The program funding will begin in January through March and in the long term the unit will match funds and faculty will have six months to prove their programs are sustainable.

Members inquired if AVC Abousalem is working with the deans, specifically with the Arts and Humanities division; they urged this information should be shared with faculty. The committee raised their concern about faculty workload but it seems there isn't any buy-out for faculty due to the source of funds and they're concern the lack of incentives will not motivate faculty to participate. Although on the other hand, there are concerns about the creation of a two-tier faculty, which will demoralize faculty. Members are concerned this is a part of the process to commodify knowledge in higher education institution to bring in revenue.

Chair provided the committee context on the system's focus on innovation and entrepreneurship, University of California is interested re-branding itself to counteract the Legislator negative perspective. Members would like to see the monetary return of these types of initiatives to the campus: faculty, students, buildings, etc. And would like to explore a coordinated effort to provide a buy-out for faculty. Another member noted his challenging experience in working on a start-up and would recommend it for students to build their careers and urge faculty to mentor. The committee noted there is a limited number of researchers on campus that can take advantage of these initiatives, therefore this information should be targeted and timely shared.