

Committee on Research Annual Report, 2000-01

To the Academic Senate, Santa Cruz Division:

The following describes the activities of the 2000-2001 Committee on Research.

I. UCSC Committee on Research (COR) activities

The UCSC Committee on Research met 5 times during the 2000-2001 academic year.

COR discussed many issues related to research policy on the UCSC campus. Included among these were: (1) state research funding cuts for graduate students; (2) federal oversight issues on compliance and possible interference with the UC research atmosphere; (3) current campus use of indirect costs; (4) policy regarding ORU/FRA reviews; (5) UC's contract renewal with DOE. As a result of our discussions on this last issue, COR sponsored a Forum on UC's contract renewal with the Department of Energy Labs (Wednesday, November 29th, 2000). A panel of distinguished scientists, including UCOP's Associate Vice Provost for Research and Laboratory Affairs Rulon Linford, led the discussion which represented both sides of the issue.

Some of the principal non-policy issues discussed by COR included: (1) implications of state-funded summer session; (2) role of growth on university research; (3) California Institutes for Science and Innovation (CISI) proposals; (4) proposed Silicon Valley Research Center; (5) series of proposed grant-writing workshops. COR members note that they would also have benefited from a statement of policy from each division on their computer equipment policy.

At two of our meetings, we consulted with Interim Vice Chancellor for Research (VCR) Burney Le Boeuf and at one of the meetings we consulted with the Campus Provost and Executive Vice Chancellor John Simpson.

The COR Chair also participated in the search for a permanent Vice Chancellor for Research. This search concluded successfully in late spring with the hiring of Robert Miller (formerly of the University of Washington, Seattle).

COR completed and submitted its funding request for 2001-02 (\$122,557 increase in its base budget). This request will enable COR to retain the Special Research Grants program that has proven so successful over the past two years. COR will also use a percentage of the new funding to support research and travel for newly-recruited faculty. We feel that this measure of funding is absolutely vital to the goal of improving UCSC to the status of a major research university as described in the UCSC Millennium Plan.

COR also drafted the ten-year plan requested by the EVC and due in December 2001. This plan calls for yearly increases in its base budget commensurate with projected campus growth with a target budget of \$1,500,000 in the year 2011 (compared to \$320,000 for the current year). We believe that these funds are crucial to meeting the research and travel needs of our senate faculty and to foster a positive research climate on this campus. The ultimate goal of COR is not only to rebuild its budget but also to increase its budget to a level commensurate with other major research universities. We believe that our request will help to shepherd our growing campus into its proper role as "the major research university for the central California coast."

COR reviewed and allocated funds for the faculty research grant proposals, both regular grants (FRGs) and the special research grants (SRGs). This year COR received \$40K in permanent funds from EVC Simpson as a result of an initiative submitted the previous year in collaboration with CPB. After extensive discussions, COR decided to allocate \$10K of the funds to reducing restrictions on travel grants and \$30K to the Special Research Grants (SRGs).

The size of the award.

Traditional COR grants (FRGs) are awarded up to a "base amount" of \$1K for tenured faculty and \$1.5K for untenured faculty. Additional amounts of up to \$1K may be awarded in exceptional cases. The maximum award for an SRG is larger: \$10K.

Policy towards distribution of funds among proposals.

With traditional COR grants most proposals which satisfy the guidelines and where there is clearly an ongoing research effort, receive some funding. With SRGs, COR fully funds only a small number of outstanding proposals and does not fund the others at all. The SRG is thus a more competitive grant.

The number of proposals submitted and the number funded, by division, is shown in the table below:

Special Research Grants

<u>Division</u>	<u># of proposals</u>	<u># awarded</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Arts	3	1	\$10,000
Humanities	4	3	\$26,460
Nat. Sci.	10	6	\$57,985
Soc. Sci.	6	2	\$16,950
Engineering	0	0	0
Total			\$111,395

Since faculty who receive a SRG cannot receive a regular FRG in the same year, COR felt it was possible to exceed the amount available from the initiative by roughly the amount of a typical FRG times the number of SRGs awarded.

II. Distribution of COR (non-SRG) Research Funds

<u>Faculty Research Grants</u>			<u>Scholarly Meeting Travel</u>		
<u>Division</u>	<u># awarded</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Division</u>	<u># awarded</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Arts	32	\$40,118	Arts	24	\$17,369
Humanities	56	\$70,428	Humanities	45	\$29,972
Nat. Sci.	27	\$30,390	Nat. Sci.	22	\$17,990
Soc. Sci.	38	\$47,664	Soc. Sci.	66	\$44,710
Engineering	1	1,000	Engineering	3	\$ 2,500

III. University Committee on Research Policy (UCORP) Activities

The UCSC COR representative to UCORP was Professor Darrell Long. UCORP provides formal advice to the UC administration through the Academic Council. UCORP also discusses a variety of issues concerning research at a systemwide level more informally with the UC Vice Provost for Research, Robert Shelton, and later in the year, Larry Coleman, who took over the position, and their staff. The Vice Provost for Research meets with the committee at most of its meetings.

UCORP holds all-day meetings once a month. During the 2000-2001 year, UCORP concerned itself primarily with three activities. The first was reviews of system-wide units such as multiple campus research units (MRUs), the second was with new initiatives including both funding initiatives and the creation of new academic and research units. By far most of its time was spent concerning the fast-track renewal of the contract to manage the UC-DOE National Laboratories.

Respectfully submitted,

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