

COMMITTEE ON RESEARCH Annual Report, 2001-02

To the Academic Senate, Santa Cruz Division:

The following describes the activities of the 2001-02 UCSC Committee on Research (COR).

I. COR activities

Ten year planning

COR was involved in the various discussions related to CP/EVC Simpson's 10-yr planning process. In the fall term, COR worked with Senate Chair Blumenthal on the Senate's 10-yr plan. A major concern is that permanent COR funding has fallen since 1989, while inflation and campus growth have substantially reduced the available funds per faculty member. (CP/EVC Simpson's recent conversion of \$50,000 of temporary initiative funding to permanent funding has modestly improved matters, but not reversed the overall decline.) In the last year for which comparative data were available, UCSC's COR funding per faculty member was well below the UC median and about half of the UCB funding level. A UCORP report in 1996 found that UCSC, UCR, and UCD were the campuses where intramural support of faculty research had suffered the most.

The Academic Senate 10-year plan, submitted in December, included the recommendation that COR funding for research be "substantially" increased, to "a more appropriate level for a premier research institution." Specifically, it sets a target funding level in 2011 of \$1.3M, roughly triple the current level. We note that even this aggressive expansion will leave UCSC funding per faculty (corrected for inflation) below the current UCB level, and will leave the COR budget near 1% of projected external funding.

COR also provided written comments to CP/EVC Simpson on the 10-yr plan of the Office of Research. Committee concerns included the heavy emphasis on commercialization of intellectual property management and the limited discussion of strategies for improving research support in the Arts and Humanities divisions.

Indirect costs

COR commented on CP/EVC Simpson's proposal for distribution of incremental increases of federal indirect cost recovery funds (40% each to divisional deans and the CP/EVC's office, 15% to the VCR's office, and 5% to COR). COR requested (and CP/EVC Simpson agreed that the VCR would provide) an annual summary report for how these opportunity funds were distributed and used. COR expressed concern that indirect cost recovery not be directly tied to a substantial fraction of the COR budget, because such allocation would produce incentives against the very types of funding COR wants to emphasize (e.g., funding in fields without significant federal funding, or high risk projects).

Other matters

COR met with the new Vice Chancellor for Research, Robert Miller. The expectation is that consultation between the VCR and COR will become a larger part of COR's mission. COR approved a request to allow COR funds to pay for Slug Express charges. COR met with a UCORP representative on issues related to the DOE labs (see below). COR deferred discussion of research issues related to the Santa Clara Valley center, pending a clearer understanding of the budget and timeline of development.

II. Allocation of COR grant funding

A major activity of COR is to evaluate proposals for scholarly travel, research, and other scholarly activities. COR funds work in all areas, but has traditionally chosen to concentrate on funding faculty in the early stages of their careers; funding areas where external fund sources are limited; and funding projects where a small amount of seed money could have a significant impact on a research project or on efforts to obtain external funds. This year, we experimented with using the Special Research Grant (SRG) program to stimulate interdisciplinary research, by allowing applications for larger joint proposals. Only three such proposals were received in the first year of the program, but we expect to continue emphasizing interdisciplinary research for another year if funds are available. During the year, COR awarded nearly \$350,000. Most of the funds (83%) were roughly evenly split between faculty in the Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences divisions.

Special Research Grants

Applications received/funded: 19/11
Total awarded: \$94,573

Breakdown: number/amount

Arts	2/\$14,574
Eng	1/\$10,000
Hum	2/\$17,700
NatSci	1/\$7500
SocSci	5/\$44,799

Faculty Research Grants

Applications funded: 136
Total awarded: \$176,772

Breakdown: number/amount

Arts	36/\$52,510
Eng	3/\$ 4,400
Hum	47/\$50,960
NatSci	15/\$22,802
SocSci	35/ <u>\$46,100</u>

Scholarly Meeting Travel

Applications funded: 139
Total awarded \$93,595

Breakdown: number/amount

Arts	20/\$14,711
Eng	4/\$ 2,500
Hum	38/\$22,435
NatSci	25/\$19,176
SocSci	52/\$34,773

III. University Committee on Research Policy (UCORP) activities

COR member Darrell Long served as the UCSC representative to (and vice-chair of) UCORP. Major activities of UCORP this year included preliminary work (through a subcommittee) on evaluating the costs and benefits inherent in the relationship of the University and the national labs. Members of the subcommittee visited all campuses and labs; at UCSC, the co-chair of the committee met jointly with the Senate Advisory Committee and COR. Other issues discussed included intellectual property rights and copyright policy, and the proposed laboratory professorship program. Details can be found in the UCORP annual report.

IV. COR representation

In addition to representation on UCORP, COR is represented through its chair on the Senate Advisory Committee and on the administrative Academic Planning Committee.

Finally, COR wishes to acknowledge the work of Laurie Babka and other support staff in the Senate Office who helped manage the proposal flow. The (novice) Chair is particularly grateful for Laurie's common sense advice and institutional memory, which made his job much easier.

Respectfully submitted,

COMMITTEE ON RESEARCH

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Sharon Daniel

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Stephen Thorsett, Chair

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