Committee on Research
James Sorensen, PhD Chair

MINUTES
Monday, January 11, 2010

PRESENT: R. Henry (Vice Chair), M. Blegen, D. Braithwaite, D. Cuenco, K. Delucchi, M. Griffiss, W. Hsueh, G. Humfleet, M. Johnson, W. Li, R. Marcucio, T. Melese, D. Saloner, G. Vyas


GUESTS: John Greenspan, Former COR Chair, and Mary Croughan, Member, UC Commission on the Future and Workgroup, Research Strategies

The Committee on Research was called to order by Vice Chair Henry on January 11, 2010 at 10:05 a.m. in room S-30. A quorum was present.

Approval of Minutes
Minutes from the December 14, 2009 meeting were approved with minor updates to the attendee list.

ACTION: The Senate Office will post the minutes to the Academic Senate website.

Vice Chair’s Announcements
Chair Sorensen is away at a conference.

Two nominations were received for the Faculty Research Lecture for 2010. Packets will be sent hard copy to COR Members this week for review at the February 8 meeting. We have also asked the main nominators for each candidate to present at that meeting.

Update on Translational Lecture & Transition – Roland Henry
The three-way call will go out March 19, 2010 for all 3 lectureships. Member Vyas requested the lecture titles be changed to Faculty Research Lecture (Basic Science), FRL (Clinical), and FRL (Translational).

We will also inform the nominators of previously-submitted applications that “we’re planning on sending in the packet as is—advise if you want to send a new packet, OR send an update to it.” The default is that they are considered for three-years always, not that they are re-considered only if they agree to it.

The Senate office will advise in decline letters to nominators that their candidates will be reconsidered automatically for the next two years. Also included in those letters will be offered the option of sending an annual update to their nomination packet, as warranted.

ACTION: The UCSF Senate Office will draft a press release identifying the new 3-way call and the new names. Release to go to all faculty so they’re aware of the change moving forward. Releasing sometime in February, in preparation for the March 19, 2010 call for DCRL nominations.
Presentation on New Direction Ideas for COR – John Greenspan, Former Chair of COR

The Committee reviewed the presentation by Dr. Greenspan prior to this arrival. In looking at the current duties, it was recognized that currently COR does not advise the Chancellor and Division of Research on budgetary need for support of research and research travel.

Dr. Greenspan went over the current charge to the UCSF COR, as defined by the Bylaws. He noted that these Bylaws were created before the 1970s when the campus size and structure was very different. Nowadays, a lot of pilot and related application funding decisions are driven by the CTSI, CFAR, ARI and other agencies including the Schools, and with COR participation in RAP, the emphasis is likely to change from grant reviewing to broader oversight functions plus perhaps a broader role at the policy and regulatory levels.

The goals and charge to the COR should be current and if/when changes are made, they should be significant changes meant to keep the committee relevant. The affiliation with RAP and the need for regulatory (both short- and long-term) oversight on that committee suggests that a shift for UCSF COR to more of a regulatory/policy-oriented committee would fit with current trends.

Suggestions:
- Downsize COR but continue to have all schools involved; more people in a separate pool of people who review/recommend grants through the RAP/COR affiliation. COR then acts as “Council”.
- Members felt that UCORP had too much work for the number of people on the committee. Perhaps reduce COR by 30%.
- Up-regulate role of advising the Chancellor with this smaller COR group; smaller committee is recommended if the focus is policy-related rather than process-related.
- If the faculty voice a need for change, from COR to Chancellor or EVCP, then change can move forward with support from top-down and faculty-up.
- Drop the IRG/Study Section role and become more like a council with the Chair/Vice Chair as members of RAP Steering Committee.

ACTION: For the 2009-2010 academic year, COR will draft a communication to the Chancellor and the UCSF Division of the Academic Senate on their assessment of such needs. The first step in such a transition will be to raise the profile of the Committee within the current charge.

Presentation on Research Strategies Workgroup – Mary Croughan, Co-Chair, Research Strategies Working Group and Member, UC Commission on the Future

M. Croughan gave an overview of the Working Group, which is tasked with examining how research can be improved at each campus and systemwide. The following topics, among others, are being explored:

1. Internal UC-research Funds: Cross-Campus Collaborations
   - Are there systems/policies that can be expanded on, and which are already in place?
   - Or should be created by looking at models at other universities?
   - What are barriers/problems to such cross-campus collaborations?

2. Research Policies & Practices
   - Graduate Students and Postdoctoral Student issues
   - Factors Affecting Research Competitiveness
   - Policies & Practices Affecting UC’s Financial Health

3. Opportunities & Threats to Research Strategies at UC
   - Retaining Outstanding Research Faculty
Principles for Addressing Threats & Seizing Opportunities

(4) Industry Engagement: Strategies & Policies/Practices to Enhance

Timeline:
The first Working Group reports are due to the Commission in March. July 2010 is the deadline for all reports. In September 2010, the reports will be due for review by Academic Senate Committees. The goal from the Regents and the Office of the President is to have it implemented immediately upon review by faculty and staff.

COR Member Comments:
Has this been examined from a business-model viewpoint? That is, has accountability been built into the system? If we want it implemented, it must be supported. However budget cuts/furloughs suggest that the support will be limited.

Questions such as these will be further examined once the topics of each Working Group are more concrete.

Mary Croughan (Mary.croughan@ucop.edu) encouraged committee members to send her ideas relating to Research Strategies. She is seeking both blue sky and nitty-gritty ideas to take back to the Working Group.

Old Business
None.

New Business
None.

Vice Chair Henry adjourned the meeting at 12:30pm.

Senate Staff: Alison Cleaver, Senior Analyst 415/476-3808; alison.cleaver@ucsf.edu