Committee on Research
James Sorensen, PhD Chair

MINUTES
Monday, December 14, 2009


ABSENT: L. Baskin, T. Hashimoto, W. Hsueh, K. Huang, D. Verotta,

GUESTS: Erik Lium, Associate Vice Chancellor, Office of Research; Cliff Roberts, Interim Assistant Vice Chancellor for Research

The Committee on Research was called to order by Chair Sorensen on December 14, 2009 at 10:05 a.m. in room S-30. A quorum was present.

Approval of Minutes
Minutes from the November 16, 2009 meeting were approved.

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

Chair’s Announcements
Chair Sorensen requested Analyst Cleaver give an update on the upcoming deadlines for SEG and FRL nominations. Analyst Cleaver gave a ballpark figure of how many can be funded.

He also went over the changing face of the COR, and the movement more toward being able to affect research policy at UCSF. The intention is to be more active in the voice for faculty for research. RAB is also serving the same purpose but it doesn’t involve the Senate.

Chair Sorensen went over the New Business logistical matters in the past meeting’s minutes, which will be discussed at the January meeting. Vice Chair Henry and Member Saloner suggested checking with RAP as to their definition of COI is. Henry advised that it seems to be the exact same way of defining COI.

Prior to the presenters’ arrival, Vice Chair Henry and Chair Sorensen provided a background on the Office of Research. Henry gave a history and current situation on indirect costs at UCSF.

ACTION: None needed.
Presentation from Office of Research – Erik Lium, Associate Vice Chancellor, Office of Research and Cliff Roberts, Interim Asst. Vice Chancellor for Research

Erik Lium initiated a conversation about the Office of Research overview and how COR can be involved. There is also a new organizational structure for Office of Research, much of which is still being determined.

Erik Lium felt there was a disconnect between what the faculty want and need, what the administration wants to have happen, and what Office of Research can actually accomplish.

Current Level of Research Administration and Goals:
Basic – Monitor regulatory issues and ensure no law-breaking
Better – Concierge-level service by walking people through the process
Best – Have people in the Office of Research who can draft proposals and manage in a creative fashion

At present, Office of Research is funded at a basic level by state 19900 funds. They can provide better/best service but need administrative support to do so on an ongoing basis. There is large support around the pre-award process. But implementation of awards didn’t match pre-award process. This is an ongoing matter that is being examined.

Also in development is the issue of online trainings. The idea per Erik Lium is to have a centralized place with all of the trainings in that one location, such that each faculty member can see what must be done and what is left to be done. Push back will be on the faculty to check that website.

Erik Lium also offered the intention that trainings would alter from: all faculty being required to do all trainings; to those faculty using the specified training techniques in their research being required to do trainings, and everyone else, not.

Same goal is intended for proposals: the Office of Research plans to create a one-stop shop to list all proposals, thereby enabling faculty members to filter out those proposals that are not applicable to them. These are blueprint plans with no timeline for accomplishment at present.

ACTION: The Committee on Research and the Office of Research will continue to maintain open lines of communication around what is desired/optimal in re service.

Key Committee Questions:
ARRA/Stimulus
Because of how quickly the stimulus option came up, UCSF had to come up with quick proposals; stimulus funding is just under/over $130 million of committed funding. UCSF submitted 1300 ARRA grant proposals.

Receipt of such ARRA funds also comes with a substantial level of reporting. It is anticipated this new level of reporting will be the ‘norm’ moving forward. The ARRA committee is not ‘active’ any longer and stimulus website is not live. Erik Lium wants that website to be converted into something that continually promotes ongoing opportunities.

Slow Execution of Contracts
Controller’s office manages post-award process ultimately; Erik Lium is trying to make the pre- and post-award process more equitable and easy. By way of showing progress, the Total Subcontracts processed and the Average Turnaround Time by the Office of Research from June 2008 through to May 2009 was:
Average turnaround time
June 2008    100 days
May 2009     45 days
November 2009 47 days
(Total Sucontracts – 1038)

IACUC Slow Response Time
As with most other committee’s slow response time, for IACUC it is due to not enough faculty on the committees. IACUC meets every other week—and can’t really review more than 1-2 protocols a week—and the burden is too great. As of November 2009, service on IACUC for 3 years makes a faculty member eligible for accelerated merit.

Old Business
Reminder of January’s Agenda: Logistical Items

New Business
Presentation at January’s COR Meeting: John Greenspan and new direction for COR.

ACTION: Analyst Cleaver will contact the RAP group to see if they have a more defined explanation of COI.

Chair Sorensen adjourned the meeting at 12:30pm.

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