Committee on Research  
Srikantan Nagarajan, PhD, Chair  

MINUTES  
Monday, February 25, 2013  

  * by phone  

ABSENT:  L. Dunn, R. Hendren, S. Kools, K. Lee, J. Long-Boyle  

GUESTS:  Bob Eaton, Director, Environmental Health & Safety Office  

The Committee on Research was called to order by Chair Nagarajan on February 25, 2013 at 10:09 am in room S 30. A quorum was present.  

 Approval of Minutes  
The minutes of the January 28, 2013 meeting were approved. They will be posted to the Senate website by the Academic Senate office.  

Chair’s Announcements  
Analyst Cleaver reminded COR members of the upcoming Faculty Research Lecture – Basic Science being held in the afternoon in Cole Hall on March 13, 2013. It will be live simulcast as well. John Rubenstein will be discussing the genetic architecture of the forebrain. COR member Robert Hendren, who nominated Dr. Rubenstein for this honor, will be introducing the lecturer; COR Chair Nagarajan will be introducing the event.  

Academic Space Planning  
Judith Hahn updated people on the status of the COR Subcommittee examining space planning and the new Mission Bay Academic Building layout. One remaining concern is that some of the Senate website concerns were falling off. These technical difficulty were raised to the Senate office and being addressed.  

Members questioned if the discussion is more of showcasing by the administration rather than actually hearing faculty concerns. There needs to be more exchange with the administration rather than conversation among faculty of concerns.  

Members also raised the idea that some of the Campus Life Services issues currently being handled by Peter Walters could be combined with the Senate’s approach. Analyst Cleaver will explore this pathway. Other members raised the idea of having UCSF “heavy hitters” weigh in, as most likely such faculty will not end up in a cubicle.  

Also raised was changing the language of the discussion to focus less on intangible issues such as status and silence for writing grants, and to define by percentage of funds lost by faculty who can’t produce in
such an environment (or who stay home, thereby eliminating the idea of cubicles-as-fostering-collaboration). For example, if each faculty member brings in roughly $250K annually and if that's a reduction across the board of $25K per faculty --- that is a bigger siren call than loss of privacy which isn't quantifiable.

COR members wanted to invite Keith Yamamoto to a future meeting to explore changes in research and the research culture at UCSF. This is a cultural issue that could affect research in years to come.

**Discussion of Revised HIPAA Policy**

COR members discussed the provided materials on HIPAA revisions. It was unclear from the document what the key changes are, and how such changes will be implemented at UCSF. Members were keen to hear from someone in CHR or Elizabeth Boyd’s Compliance & Ethics Group on these changes.

Analyst Cleaver will contact Eric Mah, Director, Research Compliance, and report back to COR members as to that discussion.

**Implementation on Lab Safety Settlement Protocols**

Environmental Health & Safety Director Bob Eaton gave an overview of the department and the various avenues fall under it, including: Biosafety, Radiation Safety, Chemical Safety, Fire Issues, Restaurant Inspection, and Pool Maintenance and the Controlled Substances. They have a Public Health Officer and Environmental Health Coordinator. He introduced Mario Suarez, Campus Program Manager, who coordinates laboratory EH&S matters and developed the newly-developed standard operating procedures for handling hazardous materials.

Director Eaton provided further information on the status of the implementation at UCSF of the protocol changes that have come out of the July 2012 UCLA Lab Safety Settlement. Many of the protocols being implemented are already in place and functioning at UCSF.

Current changes include the wearing of lab coats or some PPE. UCOP will spend upwards of $4M to purchase lab coats Systemwide. At present only UCSF and UCLA already have; UCSF does tri-annual inspections of labs to insure lab coats are present and being used.

The settlement requires UCLA lab coats to all be fire-resistant. UCSF is looking into purchasing these for its departments that use pyrophoric materials or an excess of Bunsen burners. In most cases where UCSF has had a fire develop, a Bunsen burner has been involved.

However the UC System’s ability to comply with the settlement is hampered due to a nationwide shortage of such fire-resistant lab coats.

COR member Jain asked how rigid do the campus needs to be and how can labs insure these protocol are being followed? Chair Nagarajan also posed the notion of implementing these new policies without it being burdensome to the faculty.

Director Eaton advised that UCSF is different from other campuses because much of these changes were already in place. Compliance is ongoing already and new protocols will be folded in with pre-existing ones such that maintenance is not anticipated to be cumbersome.

**Old Business**

Analyst Cleaver updated members on the changes within RAP and the Fall 2012 RAP Cycle results.

**UCORP update**

UCSF Rep Moskowitz updated members on the discussion held on the following topics:

* HIPAA Policy Changes
* Open Access Policy going live at UC campuses
* UCORP next meeting is in Sacramento with legislators and their aides. This will give the aides more information about what UCSF and its research initiative does for the state. Rep Moskowitz encouraged COR members to send her updates.
* Review of ORUs at campuses: Member Kaplan recommended Claire Brindis and her group as the point of contact at UCSF.

**New Business**
At a future COR meeting, Erik Lium, AVC Research & Industry or someone from his team will be on hand to discuss the changes to the Conflict of Interest Agreement and clinical trials.

Chair Nagarajan adjourned the meeting at 12:00 pm.

Senate Staff:
Alison Cleaver, Senior Analyst
415/514-3808; Alison.cleaver@ucsf.edu