Committee on Research
Srikantan Nagarajan, PhD, Chair

MINUTES
Monday, June 17, 2013


ABSENT: S. Nagarajan, A. Jain, J. Hahn, P. Flood

GUESTS: Susanne Hildebrand-Zanki, AVC, Research, Eric Mah, Compliance Officer, Office of Compliance & Ethics, John Taylor, Chair, IACUC, Neil Risch, Chair, Human Genetics, Susan Kegeles, Co-director, Center for AIDS Prevention Studies, and Yvette Villicana, ABOG Mentorship Program Participant

The Committee on Research was called to order by Chair Nagarajan on April 15, 2013 at 10:12 am in room S 30. A quorum was present.

Approval of Minutes
The minutes of the May 20, 2013 meeting were approved. They will be posted to the Senate website by the Academic Senate office.

Chair’s Announcements
New COR Representative Needed
Committee on Sponsored Research – COR Vice Chair Janet Myers rotated off of the Committee on Sponsored Research and AVC Hildebrand-Zanki has requested a new COR representative. Vice Chair Myers explained about the committee and its purpose. Meeting is at Parnassus at 9am on Mondays. Celia Kaplan will be the Senate representative on the committee; another COR member will represent COR.

Interested members should contact Analyst Cleaver in the Senate via email. She will pass that communication onto AVC Hildebrand-Zanki.

Volunteers Updates
As specified by new guidelines, clinical volunteers can only “observe” and not actually do anything; for example, psych interns can’t be in the clinic and do case histories. This distinction is only for clinical volunteers – and doesn’t affect research volunteers. Psych interns would be permitted to do research.

COR members raised concerns about these distinctions, as many people who are volunteers are seeking experience that they cannot get elsewhere, or which they may need for acceptance into medical or healthcare education programs. These positions aren’t ones that would traditionally be filled by Union people.
The new title for volunteers is “Assistant Specialist w/o Salary.” These guidelines are still in development. Analyst Cleaver will contact Risk Management to seek input. This may be on the September 2013 agenda if responses are adequate over the summer.

Guidelines Discussion (General)
COR members raised additional questions pertaining to what are guidelines and what are policies, codes, rules, within each campus. At UCSF, guidelines are actually requirements often. Overall, COR is hoping 2013-2014 will see more consistency and clarification from the Administration and the Academic Senate as to what is what and which has precedent and supercedes others.

Research Allocation Program (RAP) Update
Committee on Research/Academic Senate is funding 24 grants in the Spring cycle for about $825K. This is the last cycle for the $50K eye research fund grant; come Fall 2013 cycle, that amount reverts to the $30K standard.

COR member Kaplan advised that Cancer Center review committees should have additional social and behavioral sciences -- as some of these types of grants are being reviewed by basic scientists. She recommended L. Dunn be included on the committee next cycle or another social and behavioral scientist. Analyst Cleaver will forward on the recommendation to the RAP Executive Board for them to follow up.

Discussion and Voting on Candidates for Faculty Research Lectures in 2013-2014
After discussion, COR members voted to award the lectures to the following individuals and teams:

- Jonathan Weissman was named Faculty Research Lecture: Basic Science (winter 2014)
- Kristine Yaffe was named as Faculty Research Lecture: Clinical Science (fall 2013)
- John and Deborah Greenspan were named as team recipients of the Faculty Research Lecture: Translational Science distinction (spring 2014)

Discussion on Departments on New Research Climate at UCSF
Neil Risch, Chair, Human Genetics and Susan Kegeles, Co-Director, Center for AIDS Prevention Studies attended COR's June 2013 meeting to discuss the impact of lack of research funds on departments. Chairs and COR members recognize that UCSF is having financial issues which is driving a lot of what’s happening.

Human Genetics (SOM) has about seventy people and some have left due to lack of funding. Operational Excellence (OE) has been problematic because it's an added burden. A lot of departmental staff still do a lot of pre-award work although the overall work burden has decreased due to OE. The worst consequence is financial and the impact on recruiting.

HumGen lost funds through indirect cost recovery and now has to pay double. HR efforts have also doubled in cost. Some faculty, even senior or with FTE, have had to apply for bridge funding. Of those that left—one was FTE and one was soft money.

For recruiting purposes, because there’s no FTE, no hard money, and no endowment, it’s proved difficult to retain the interest of qualified candidates. In addition, UCSF provides little to zero start-up funds and with the instability of NIH grant funding, potential hires are inquiring about those funds more so than in the past.

Center for AIDS Prevention (CAPS) is part of the prevention science division within SOM. It's all soft money with zero FTEs. The group has always maintained a sense of self-determination as there was no room on campus, so they found their own space. Space is paid for from direct costs. They're moving to
the new MCAB/Mission Hall at Mission Bay Campus. Their indirects will go up when they come on campus which will affect the amount of money available for researchers to use.

The NIH funding issues are proving problematic. No faculty have left but many are starting to look for work elsewhere come fall 2013. For those six CAPS faculty who are over their NIH cap, SOM isn’t going to cover their salary.

COR members will hear from Vice Chancellor Keith Yamamoto in September regarding the changing research climate at UCSF.

**IACUC Internal Communication**

AVC Susanne Hildebrand-Zanki (SHZ) joined Compliance Officer Eric Mah and IACUC Chair John Taylor discussed the external review performed by Association for Assessment and Accreditation of Laboratory Animal Care International (AAALAC) on UCSF and its outcome.

In general the review went poorly; some researchers weren't following protocol and lied to AAALAC that they had made changes. Of particular issue were poor or inaccurate signage and many little things. As a result, AAALAC sent a very stern letter to UCSF suggesting accreditation was in trouble.

For IACUC, UCSF is accredited by three different organizations. Losing AAALAC would put UCSF in jeopardy with the other two organizations.

**Discussion**

COR member Springer advised that the reasoning behind why these IACUC changes are happening hasn't been relayed to faculty. Eric Mah advised that the quick responses and actions were due to AAALAC issues and timelines. Forthcoming there will be three successive communications addressing why these things are being done.

COR member Kaplan raised the issue that complying may prove prohibitive due to lack of resources. Eric Mah said the first step is “do the faculty know the rules?” that the campus can assist with. If necessary, mandatory training (or retraining) will be done. UCSF is also bolstering resources to insure monitoring of compliance.

COR members expressed concern and retribution for repeat faculty offenders. John Taylor advised that IACUC has graduated responses. They start with quarterly reports up to supervision by Laboratory Animal Resource Center (LARC) veterinarians. They have also brought forward faculty to IACUC to answer questions -- they have suspended protocols if needed. If that doesn't work, they'll meet with Elizabeth Boyd to stress importance. Suspensions are reported to the Federal Government.

COR member Kools wanted to make sure that the accountability "loop" be closed to insure repeat offenders don't come up again. SHZ advised that they've been meeting for six months to insure that institutional oversight will catch these types of things in the future.

COR recommended and supported the idea of having an IACUC/protocol suspension automatically generate an APM 015 (code of conduct) violation--which would go through the Academic Affairs Office and into a faculty member's personnel file.

**Follow-up**

COR members requested additional communication from UCSF leadership explaining why adherence to IACUC is important. As many faculty don't do animal research, it isn't clear to them why it matters. COR member Springer thought IACUC needs to be viewed as protector not adversary.

**Old Business**
None

**New Business**
None

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

Senate Staff:
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