The Committee on Research was called to order by Chair Nagarajan on October 15, 2012 at 10:06 am in room S 30. A quorum was present.

Approval of Minutes
The minutes of the October 15, 2012 meeting were approved as amended. They will be posted to the Senate website by the Academic Senate office.

Chair’s Announcements – Sri Nagarajan
None

University Committee on Research Policy (UCORP) Update – Judy Moskowitz
UCSF Representative to UCORP Janet Moskowitz provided the following update from the November 5, 2012 meeting:
1. Lab safety was the major point of discussion.
2. UCOP is proposing a composite benefit rate. This can unfairly penalize soft-money grants. All campuses are concerned about the proposal. UCSF Academic Senate is working closely with Eric Vermillion, Vice Chancellor of Finance, to determine the impact for UCSF. The Academic Assembly has written a letter expressing faculty concerns.
COR: What is the impetus for this proposal? This takes more money from grants, freeing up state funds for other things. Assembly was pushing for February, faculty pushed back as the timeline was too aggressive.

Research Advisory Board (RAB) Update – Judy Moskowitz
None

Laboratory Safety at the University of California – Elizabeth Boyd, PhD, Associate Vice Chancellor, Ethics & Compliance
In 2008, a researcher at UCLA died due to a tragic laboratory accident. Following the accident, the District Attorney brought criminal charges alleging that the faculty member did not provide adequate safety procedures. The Regents settled the criminal case, although the civil case against the professor is ongoing as he has refused to settle on grounds that this would create a terrible precedent. AVC Boyd remarked that many of the required terms are already in place at UCSF.

The terms of the Regents’ settlement include three essential requirements for UC laboratories to implement September 2012 – February 2013:

1. Adequate training
2. Detailed lab-specific Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs)
3. Use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

In September, the Regents were required to commence training for lab managers for basic lab safety, a practice that has been standard at UCSF.

UCSF will need to provide written certification by the Director of Environmental Health & Safety (EH&S) confirming that the campus has begun implementation of these procedures in compliance with Title 8 of the CAL OSHA safety code.

The settlement also requires UCSF to provide a list of all lab facilities on campus. The settlement has been strictly applied to Departments of Chemistry. UCSF does not have a Department of Chemistry. Hence, UCSF has identified two departments that are in the spirit of chemistry -- the Departments of Biochemistry and Biophysics (School of Medicine) and Pharmaceutical Chemistry (School of Pharmacy). These departments have been provided to the state.

UCSF will have to develop a formal safety manual and chemical hygiene plan and ensure that they are maintained, up-to-date, and that all personnel have reviewed them. Upon completion of the manual, training, and ensuring that all affected personnel have PPE, UCSF must certify compliance with the state two times a year. If a violation is reported to the Vice Chancellor of Research, it must be addressed within 30 days; else, the campus will be levied fines. The goal for UCSF is to roll-out these practices campus-wide.

**Implementation Status:**
During the first phase of implementation, EH&S initiated a complete inventory of chemicals in the Departments of Biochemistry and Biophysics and Pharmaceutical Chemistry. EH&S is working to upgrade those inventory systems to better track these chemicals. Additionally, UCSF is working on a list of chemicals that fall under the agreement. UCLA has been charged with creating a library of chemicals. Completion of Phase One is targeted for January 2013.

In regards to Chair Nagarajan’s concerns regarding faculty pushback, E. Boyd responded that there was no pushback, just questions. The concern is the extent to which the DA held the PI responsible.

Chair Nagarajan expressed concern as many labs already have many of these safety measures in place - researchers should not have to go through another round of similar procedures to be compliant

- The main issue is that everyone can take the baseline safety test, yet the onus remains on the PI to educate their lab on specific chemicals and reagents. Will the PI take the time and effort to ensure safety in their lab?

A. Jain commented that there are two pieces: (1) managing the University’s liability and (2) ensuring that UCSF is increasingly safer. This raises two important questions does UCSF: (1) abide by checkboxes or build a culture of safety? (2) want to be list-based or principle-based? The primary concern is that this is make-work without a real concern for safety. E. Boyd agreed and tasked the committee to deliver
feedback on how best to change the culture. L. Dunn mirrored the above comments and suggested in-person trainings similar to the mock safety trainings held at Stanford University.

Paul Green, Chair, Committee on Faculty Welfare asked whether faculty are indemnified in the event such as the one at UCLA.

E. Boyd: Not necessarily. Anyone working in the course and scope of their responsibility will be protected.

Major discussion points:
- What if someone comes in at a time when the PI is not around?
- The training seems blanket, but we shouldn’t get bogged down in specifics.
- There is a difference between reagents and cellular labs. Stratifying by PI may not be the ideal way to approach the issue. Perhaps we should stratify based on space.

E. Boyd welcomed advice on how to achieve a space-based approach.

A. Jain queried whether or not some of the burden can be put on the lab manager.

Open Access
S Gansky gave an update on APHA.

Space Planning at UCSF (Attachments 1 & 2) – Bruce Wintroub, Co-Chair
Bruce Wintroub, Co-Chair of the UCSF Space Committee presented an overview (Attachment 1) of a space plan (Attachment 2) to be initiated at UCSF in January 2013.

Following the presentation, he discussed the following with COR members:

Note: sf = square feet; asf = assignable square feet

COR: Will this policy push faculty members off campus to rent space at less than $90/asf?
BW: With 8 million sf of space at UCSF, it will become more difficult to get permission to sign off campus leases.

COR: Faculty anxiety about meeting $90/asf in a time of unpredictable research funding
BW: This is an accounting system to help with space planning.

COR: What about managing this process as it is implemented? How will the space committee get feedback?
BW: this is intended to be a living document to be revised by what we learn as we implement the policies. The first year is a transition year. Education space and general purpose conference rooms and COREs will not be included in space accounting. The first year will be a process of cleaning up the data about space on campus.

COR: flexible office space at Mission Bay?
BW: Our group is not working on that. The Mission Bay Hospital design did not include faculty office space. The new office building will house 1500 faculty in 200,000 sf and will cost $115? (118?) million. The goal was to design a building that was flexible and within budget. Private spaces are available for when it is needed. Privacy is one functional use of the space. The new design will make people work differently.

COR: I am from CAPS and one of the people working on the new faculty office building. It seems that our concerns were not heard or they were heard and dismissed. What is happening with those recommendations?
BW: We have heard the concerns and are working on them.
COR: What about recruiting new faculty to UCSF? The architectural style may not appeal to mid or late career faculty members.
BW: We’re working on it.

COR: This could prevent us from achieving the cross-disciplinary collaboration that we seek. We will all adjust our work styles, however there will be gains and losses.
BW: We will gain flexibility and better ability to collaborate.

**Old Business**
None.

**New Business**
None.

Chair Nagarajen adjourned the meeting at 12:35 pm.

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