Committee on Research  
Srikantan Nagarajan, PhD, Chair

MINUTES  
Monday, December 17, 2012

* by phone

ABSENT:  G. Dowling, S. Kools, K. Lee, J. Long-Boyle

GUESTS:  Elizabeth Boyd, Associate Vice Chancellor, Ethics & Compliance  
Tejal Desai, Chair, Graduate Council  
Paul Green, Chair, Committee on Faculty Welfare  
Bruce Wintroub, Co-Chair, UCSF Space Committee

The Committee on Research was called to order by Chair Nagarajan on December 17, 2012 at 10:09 am in room S 30. A quorum was present.

Approval of Minutes
The minutes of the November 26, 2012 meeting were approved as amended. They will be posted to the Senate website by the Academic Senate office.

Chair’s Announcements – Sri Nagarajan
Chair Nagarajan went over the survey released by campus administration regarding the Patent Agreement. He encouraged COR members to fill it out. Once we have final survey results, COR can discuss and develop communication to administration.

COR member Jain raised the issue of some savvy faculty who can word their agreements with outside agencies such that they do gain economically through such agreements. So the patent agreement is actually in their disfavor if they sign it.

Changes in the Human Resources Classification of Staff
RAB Representative Moskowitz advised that the new policy is that all research staff are being re-classified as Clinical Research Coordinator Series.

The issue in some cases however is that those staff who aren’t involved in clinical trials are being re-classified unnecessarily. It can also mean that some faculty, who have staff on grants, have to reallocate their grant disbursement to pay for the salary increase—and as such, curtail research months ahead of schedule. This will also make all such re-classified staff union members.

Guest Hildebrand-Zanki advised that this re-classification does fall under her jurisdiction and that of Cynthia Wright. However it’s been in the works for several years and as such, there is no “rush” as being
suggested by some of the HR communications. She will advise further on this matter come early Spring 2013.

**COR Discussion of Fall RAP Funding Cycle**
COR members reviewed the final scores from the RAP Review Committee and agreed to fund up to a 3.6. It’s anticipated that will result in the Committee funding upwards of 20 grants. If any of the Pilot for Established Investigator Grants are in need of funding, the Senate has agreed to fund them this cycle as needed by CTSI-SOS or REAC.

Vice Chair Myers will substitute for Chair Nagarajan at the final results meeting on December 18 as Chair Nagarajan is conflicted out. Final results will be circulated via email to committee members within a few days following the meeting.

**Update on Operational Excellence Pre-award Changes and Other Topics – Susanne Hildebrand-Zanki, Vice Chancellor, Research** (Attachments 1 and 2)
Guest Hildebrand-Zanki discussed progress to date on pre-award including the evaluation plans and the new pre-award priorities for FY12-13. She acknowledged some of the issues arose from the RMS going live and the loss of analysts who do proposals. These issues are currently being addressed.

Chair Nagarajan asked about the grievance process when something doesn’t work out with the C&G RMS System. Guest Hildebrand-Zanki advised that the issue may be with the Team Leader, in which case Marge O’Halloran is the contact. If it’s with a particular RSC, then the Team Leader for that group is the contact.

Guest Hildebrand-Zanki also spoke to the Clinical Research Initiative which is rolling out January 2, 2013 for interventional clinical trials and studies. All others won’t be required to do such feasibility studies until later on. Mostly industry and some foundation grants fall outside of typical scientific-review and will be subject to these feasibility review requirements.

**Old Business**
None.

**New Business**
COR members would like to invite members of the Chancellor’s Group and the Development Office to attend a future meeting so as to hear of current initiatives. Of the Development Office, COR members are curious how faculty are being engaged with the Chancellor’s shift in priorities.

Vice Chancellor, Research, Susanne Hildebrand-Zanki will attend the February 2013 COR meeting to discuss the changes to the budget for clinical research. Analyst Cleaver will circulate the budget presentation prior to that meeting.

COR members also would like to re-invite Bruce Wintroub, Co-chair, UCSF Space Planning Committee to further delineate forthcoming changes. COR member Xu is also serving on the Senate’s APB Subcommittee on Space Planning.

Overall the new policy will result in some faculty having offices and others not having them—but sharing in “work spaces.” Overall, COR members had the following inquiries:

1. Has a pilot for this new space design been tested?
2. Will the cost be beneficial long-term, or is it simply a short-term gain?
3. Will this be detrimental to recruitment efforts?
4. Can an opt-out option be included?
5. How will this impact the faculty member’s teaching and time with students if they have no office to counsel students in?
6. NIH grants request square footage for faculty offices. What if there’s no office for them to calculate?

These concerns will be incorporated into a letter the Senate is drafting. Senate Executive Director Heather Alden will route the letter to Bonnie Maler. The Committee will continue active discussions on the issue.

Chair Nagarajan adjourned the meeting at 12:30 pm.

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