Committee on Research
Srikantan Nagarajan, PhD, Chair

MINUTES
Monday, January 27, 2014

PRESENT: Chair Nagarajan, A. Carrico, S. Chapman, C. Dawson-Rose, S. Gansky, J. Gross, J. Hahn, T. Hashimoto, S. Ho, A. Jain, S. Massa, D. Meyerhoff, J. Moskowitz, E. Murphy, M. Springer


GUESTS: Marge O’Halloran, Director, Research Management Services, Regnier Jurado, Manager, Contracts & Grants, and Joe Bengfort, CIO

The Committee on Research was called to order by Chair Nagarajan on December 16, 2013 at 9:00 am in room S-30. A quorum was present.

Approval of Minutes
The minutes of the December 16, 2013 meeting were approved with edits. They will be posted to the Senate website by the Academic Senate office.

Chair Announcements
Chair Nagarajan discussed the UCB Senate plan to disburse all of its research funds to faculty. Each faculty received straight $3000 with no strings attached. COR members discussed doing something similar at UCSF. Analyst Cleaver advised that UCB has far more unrestricted/non-endowment research funds than UCSF – and UCSF has a lot more research faculty. Those two factors combined render this idea fruitless to attempt at UCSF, unfortunately.

Presentation on Changes to Subcontracting
Marge O’Halloran, Director, Research Management Services (RMS) and Regnier Jurado, Manager, Contracts & Grants, provided an overview of organizational changes to the subcontracting group at UCSF.

The former group was disbanded and the Office of Sponsored Research divided into three groups: Government & Business Contracts, Research Development Office, and Research Management Services.

The current re-organization was initiated June-July 2013 with the full rollout effective March 2014. Those groups and departments who have piloted the post-award/post-acceptance process have expressed challenges.

COR members asked if the change will result in a reduction in time from award acceptance to funds activation within the UCSF system. At present the time is upwards of sixty days. Guest O’Halloran advised the goal is to get that down to thirty days.
Guest Jurado provided data on subcontracts. For 2012-2013 that group processed 1,615 subcontracts. At present they have just three subcontracting analysts. COR members asked about the feasibility of having analysts process 500+ annually. Guest O’Halloran advised that it’s recognized this is not sustainable. Additional analysts will be added when possible. COR members emphasized that having adequate staff is paramount for success and for ease of post-award process.

COR members asked to have both guests O’Halloran and Jurado return in Spring 2014 to discuss metrics for measuring success of these restructuring changes. See attachment for full presentation information.

**Discussion on Membership Needs for COR**
Committee on Research Liaison Jyu-Lin Chen, Committee on Committees (COC), discussed with current COR members what type of faculty are missing from COR. Members discussed the varied campuses—VAMC, SFGH—and different faculty series—HS Clinical, In Residence, Ladder Rank, Adjunct, and Clinical X—and making sure representation was included from all of these on COR. Members also discussed have faculty who do basic, clinical, and translational research as well as both wet and dry labs be part of the committee.

COC will reach out to these type of faculty to see their interest in COR in 2014-2015 and moving forward.

COC will also determine from current COR membership any candidates interested in becoming Vice Chair and eventually Chair of COR.

**Presentation on IT Changes at UCSF**
Joe Bengfort, CIO, UCSF provided an overview of the IT changes at UCSF. He’s been at UCSF for about two and a half years; the first two years he was just at the Medical Center. He’s still learning about campus needs and encourages feedback.

Overall IT is aiming to consolidate the two organizations of campus and Medical Center and eliminate any duplicate skills sets or groups. Guest Bengfort advised that the cost investment in IT is going up and not down. IT is also exploring whether any of its current services can be outsourced to reduce cost.

Being added are groups focused on data warehousing, data access, analytics, and within the clinical enterprise strategic plan. A new position for an Analytics & Data Warehousing Director is being developed; no solid candidates have been found as of yet.

COR members asked how they could get feedback to IT about potential or ongoing changes and any issues that arise. Guest Bengfort encouraged members to email him directly and recommended having a COR member on the Subcommittee on Research Technology. This subcommittee is chaired by Tom Ferrin.

COR members raised questions about the following topics:

*Videoconferencing:* Guest Bengfort advised that Medical Center and campus are on the same system now. A unified video communication system, combined with a desktop video sharing is being piloted at present. Rollout is to start in Summer 2014. IT is aware it will need to made more robust due to telemedicine efforts which are ongoing and need support.

*Encryption:* Members raised issues about data sharing equipment and encryption and in particular, how it could impact research. Within this topic, guest Bengfort discussed data sharing with BOX. At present the UC System doesn’t have an agreement that insures HIPAA guidelines are being met. Guest Bengfort has urged UCOP to expedite obtaining such an agreement.
High speed computing: Members discussed having Neil Risch, Michael Fischback, and Brad Dispensa to present on high-end computing. At present it’s an ICHS system but input is needed from the broader research community on this topic. Members would hope to share gained information with guest Bengfort.

IT Charges: Members asked why are they being charged for things that they don't use, i.e. medical record archiving is not relevant for dry lab researchers or anyone not working with patients. Guest Bengfort is inclined to revisit this charging mechanism. He did advise that if a faculty member use clinical data, you must pay for use as you're protecting the institution against PHI being released.

See attachment for full presentation information.

**Old Business**
None

**New Business**
None

Senate Staff:
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