Committee on Research
Srikantan Nagarajan, PhD, Chair

MINUTES
Monday, February 24, 2014


GUESTS: Teresa Costantinidis, Associate Vice Chancellor, Budget & Resource Management

The Committee on Research was called to order by Chair Nagarajan on February 24, 2014 at 9:00 am in room S-30. A quorum was present.

Approval of Minutes
The minutes of the January 27, 2014 meeting were approved with edits. They will be posted to the Senate website by the Academic Senate office.

Chair Announcements
Chair Nagarajan provided updates on several topics, and invited feedback on needs for the next Chancellor, which can be conveyed to the Search Committee.

Chancellor’s Search Committee
The UC Regents and the UCSF Chancellor Search Committee met with key groups at UCSF last week. All UCSF Senate Committee Chairs were in attendance, and to present the needs of the Senate as a whole and of Senate members. The three points stressed were partnership, engagement, and shared governance.

UC Regent Gavin Newsom asked about recruitment and retention data. Chair Nagarajan spoke to issues recruiting internal and external candidates: internal candidates cannot get start-ups and if they’re successful, it’s only through their own ingenuity. HR and Academic Affairs didn’t have information to provide in response. Data from the Faculty Exit Survey to date echoes what is already known – there’s insufficient quantity of data to collectively state this is the case across the board.

COR members discussed needing the following in the next Chancellor:

1. Familiar with research at a campus and NIH level, including the diversity of the types of research going on throughout UCSF.
2. Increase shared partnership between the different UCSF and UC campuses.
3. Research should be seen as an investment, not an expense. Ongoing cuts and increased administrative/financial burden being placed on faculty is only decreasing morale.
HR Issues at UCSF
COR members raised issues with the HR Ticketing process. In several cases, a ticket has been “signed off” on without the job being completed.

There's another issue with moving the International Scholars Office into the HR Division. The change hands off to an HR Representative matters previously handled by IOSS Analysts. This could impact researchers from abroad. Chair Nagarajan cited this situation being similar to Contracts & Grants, where they're deliberately understaffed, and setting staff up to fail.

UCORP Updates
Chair Nagarajan provided an update on behalf of UCORP Representative Judy Moskowitz.

One, the reclassification of SRAs into different categories is causing budget issues. Professor Nancy Adler is leading a discussion end of February at Laurel Heights. Chair Nagarajan encourages members to attend.

Second, Analyst Cleaver will send around a UCORP document for review. The document details reviews of pre-existing research programs currently funded by UCORP directly, and whether they still fit the UCOP mission and if they should still receive funding. Review deadline is March 10. Send comments directly to Analyst Cleaver who will compile a combined response.

Presentation on Proposed Recommendations of the Indirect Cost Recovery Task Force
Teresa Costantinidish, Associate Vice Chancellor, Budget & Resource Management Office, presented along with Indirect Cost Recovery Task Force members and COR members Matthew Springer and Stuart Gansky the proposed recommendations of the task force.

Some of the overall issues facing the task force were being face with both the opportunity to grow new strategic programs, while protecting critical existing ones, requires choices, scenario planning, and for each project to directly contribute to UCSF.

The Committee on Research will draft a formal Communication to Susanne Hildebrand-Zanki, Associate Vice Chancellor, Research summarizing the below discussion. (Attachment 2)

Background
Formerly UCOP used to own IDC and they parcel it out to each campus. Now, each campus owns those funds and dispenses internally. Each campus negotiates its own rate. UCSF's is rising but it's still not on par with Stanford or Harvard. However, as that rate rises, it reduces the campus's overall ability to compete with some foundation grants.

Currently, forty percent of the funds that feed into the Core Financial Resources pool come from indirect cost recovery. It's project that from now until 2022-2023 the existing pool of $360M will shrink to below $100M. For a campus the size of UCSF, it shouldn't drop below $200M.

General Discussion
One of the Task Force’s end results was putting a cap on the waivers such that ICR for all grants was ten percent. This will generate another three million annually, which is a small dent in the forthcoming $75M gap.

COR members discussed research being looked upon as an investment not an expense by administration. Also raised was the potential impact on academic freedom and faculty development, if departments or schools limit who can apply for certain grants.
The discussion shifted to focus on fundraising and philanthropy as being an avenue to raise far more than the projected three million savings from these indirect cost recovery changes. Other universities have general endowment funds from which people—not bricks and mortar—can be developed. Perhaps UCSF should focus on developing such a fund like this in partnership with the proposed recommendations.

**Administrative Overworking of Faculty**
Faculty Welfare Committee Chair Paul Green led an open discussion to hear COR members concerns about administrative overworking and financial overburdening of faculty members.

COR members highlighted the excessive surveys and trainings, and the lack of oversight by the campus as a whole in monitoring the number of trainings especially.

Committee members cited as an example how any IACOC policy change requires a new review process. Members thought such changes should wait until an actual grant renewal to institute.

Larger campus issues of having no administrative analysts is also an issue impacting morale.

COR members discussed working more closely with the development office, and wondered as to their metric for performance. How can faculty help that office reach their goals and by so doing, alleviate some of the pressure on faculty to do everything.

This preliminary discussion will be carried over to the Faculty Welfare Committee where that committee will try to develop some metrics and methods/pathways by which to bring this to the administration’s attention.

**Old Business**
None

**New Business**
None

Meeting adjourned at 11am.

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