Committee on Research
Srikantan Nagarajan, PhD, Chair

MINUTES
Monday, May 19, 2014


The Committee on Research was called to order by Chair Nagarajan on May 19, 2014 at 9:00 am in room S-30. A quorum was present.

Approval of Minutes
The minutes of the April 21, 2014 meeting were approved with edits to attendance. They will be posted to the Senate website by the Academic Senate office.

Chair and Vice Chair Announcements
Vice Chair's Comments
Vice Chair Myers continued her presentation from last month's meeting on the reclassification of SRAs to CRCs. This has cost some faculty unanticipated expenses as the reclassification includes a pay raises for CRCs. This change is a UC-wide change.

There was a lack of communication from HR on this change and its potential implications in terms of finances. It's not an appropriate classification for people doing clinical research--but for those doing both research and administration, it's a good career move.

However the UC System has taken these decisions out of the units and determined it centrally, without consultation.

Space Governance Policies & Procedures
COR members discussed amongst themselves the Space Governance Policies & Procedures as posted on the space.ucsf.edu website. Committee members identified some issues/questions with the current posted policies and procedures. Space Committee Co-chair Bruce Wintroub will attend the June 16 COR meeting to discuss those questions and to provide an overview of the financial issues related to the policies.

Issues identified by Committee members include:
- Having academic faculty representation across the UCSF mission spectrum (teaching, clinical, research) on the Space Governance and Planning Committees
- “Trickle-down” Issues – of similar past initiatives having unintended financial impact on faculty when Schools or Departments are unable to fulfill
• Financial Impact - including clarification of the decoupling of indirect cost recovery and space policy. Also will the $ sq/ft cost occur like an additional tax above and beyond indirect costs?
• Space Growth – clear breakdown of steps to follow to submit a request for more space including who to receive and timeline for response.
• Space Calculation – at what time-scale will the space footprint be re-evaluated. It’s been suggested examining on a three-year average performance for units. Is that accurate?
• Space for Cores – how will Core facilities be impacted by these new policies, as they cannot be evaluated on IDR criteria. This should be articulated within the policies
• Transition Space – where will this short-term space fit in the space governance and financial cost per sq/ft breakdown?
• Separate Academic Senate Standing Task Force on Space – pull members from the various Senate subcommittees formed by other standing committees, which will support campus space intentions from the point of view of faculty

Faculty Research Lecture Changes
COR members discussed how to include all research fields into the pre-existing categories of basic, clinical, and translational. The Academic Senate’s intention was that these three areas be inclusive of all faculty research--however some social science and policy researchers have advised that they don’t believe themselves to be included in the present definitions.

After discussion, COR members opted to change the Call for Nominations to include ALL research...and that COR members will determine if its basic, clinical, translational, or social science/policy related.

Members suggested changing the Call to read: "...has the faculty member done exceptional work with far-reaching impact across fields in their career."

Analyst Cleaver along with Vice Chair Myers and a handful of other COR members will draft new language over the summer and present it in the fall 2014.

Old Business
None

New Business
Over-auditing and Over-inspection of Units
COR members raised the issue of multiple inspections and audits of unit across campuses that have a variety of rooms with different types of grants that require different audits/inspections.

It would be preferred that the different UCSF offices work together to coordinate audits and inspections in these particular instances.

COR members wondered if this was pervasive for units with these grants and types of research? COR member Gross advised that if faculty are using particular chemicals there are more inspections due to the UCLA lawsuit.

Analyst Cleaver will invite Eric Mah, Chief Compliance Officer to come in fall 2014 to discuss the over-auditing issue. IACUC and others will also be invited.
CHR
COR members advised that it's taking about a month to get a call back from CHR. It used to take about a week but now much longer. Also, CHR Chair John Heldens is leaving so it's unclear how CHR will change in the future.

Whomever replaces him, COR members wanted to have the new CHR Chair attend a 2014-2015 COR meeting to discuss issues.

Meeting adjourned at 10:35am

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