Committee on Research
Srikantan Nagarajan, PhD, Chair

MINUTES
Monday, September 15, 2014


GUESTS: Lisa Denney, Interim Director, Human Research Policy Program, Michael Thomas, and Eric Mah, Interim Associate Vice Chancellor, Ethics & Compliance

The Committee on Research was called to order by Chair Myers on September 15, 2014 at 10:12 am in room CL-221. A quorum was not present.

Approval of Minutes
The minutes of the June 2014 meeting were approved via email consensus post-meeting. With minor editing, they will be posted to the Senate website by the Academic Senate office.

Chair’s Announcements
Chair Myers did introductions and went over the charge to the committee, which includes:

• Being called upon to serve on one or two subcommittees throughout the year.
• Being asked to participate in Limited Submission Opportunities through the Research Development Office (RDO) as facilitated by Gail Fischer.
• Selection of three Faculty Research Lecturers in spring, who will give lectures in 2014-2015

Business carried over from 2012-2013 includes:

• Space Planning and Space Allocation Committees and discussions
• Gift Tax Assessment Changes and determining allocation of the Chancellor’s Fund ($500K annually)

New COR Representative Needed
Committee on Sponsored Research – Former COR member Duan Xu has rotated off of the Committee on Research and as a result, off of the Committee Sponsored Research. That second committee, now Chaired by Marge O’Halloran, Director, Research Management Services, has requested a replacement. Meeting is monthly with a dial-in option.

Leadership Retreat
The leadership retreat took place on Saturday, September 13th. Attendees heard presentation from Teresa Costantinidis on budget matters. A separate discussion focused on the receipt of $500K annually in a “Chancellor’s Fund” to be used by the Senate for the faculty. Potential uses for that money included:

- Formation of a PR or Services Office to develop better faculty portfolios such as websites.
- Intended audience for such PR is both administration and potential donors
- Supplementing the salary cap for clinicians
- Seed funding for a Faculty Development fund pool
- Sabbaticals fund
- Augmenting grant funding
- Supporting collaboration with online teaching
- Use for speakers (inside/outside UCSF)
- Use to fund software recharges or licenses
- Use to cover hiring of summer students ($500 per volunteer student to hire)

Chancellor Hawgood also spoke on UCSF’s Real Estate and space developments.

Open Discussion on Issues
Members of COR discussed changing the size of the committee from 26 to 15 as well as possibly reserving a room in Mission Bay for future meetings. Issues surrounding videconferencing were also raised and the committee is considering Google Hangout/Jabber for future meetings. Members also discussed the $500K Chancellor’s Fund to be used by the Senate for faculty life.

Changes with Committee on Human Research and Human Research Protection Program
Lisa Denney (Interim Director, HRPP), Michael Thomas (Manager, CHR Review Unit) and Eric Mah (Interim Associate Vice Chancellor/Chief Ethics & Compliance Officer) presented on the changes in process within both the Human Research Protection Program and the Committee on Human Research. Guest Denney discussed current time to approval and volume of applications processed annually by both groups.

A recent Task Force studied both CHR and HRPP practices. Task Force outcomes included identifying inefficiencies in screening and review processes and implement changes to reduce effort per study for staff. Recent task force findings were that eight-five percent of new applications are returned at least once for pre-review corrections. Also poorly-prepared applications take excessive time and resources to screen, review, and correct. Guest Denney advised that overall five percent of applicants consistently fail to submit an adequately-prepared application.

Intended changes this year include:
1. “Fast Track” review
2. Implementation of submission standards (incomplete applications and “standards not met” applications)
3. New Social and Behavioral Research application (fall/winter release date)
4. Developing training resources for new or junior researchers who are having problems navigating the application process (Clinical Research Institute)

An overall outcome of implementing the above changes could result in a reduction in time to approval by roughly 45-50 percent this year.

Committee members discussed the level of usability or lack thereof in the system and potential changes. (Attachment 2)

Agenda Items for the Upcoming Year
- UCSF 2.0 (phases II and III) forthcoming in 2014
Phase I is complete. Phases II and III will involve workshops comprised of UCSF employees (staff/faculty) and students who participated in phase I.

- Funding of Individual Investigator and Shared Instrument Grants through participation in RAP
- Ongoing discussion and partnership with Campus Leadership in the support of faculty researchers
- Selection of the 2015-2016 Faculty Research Lecturers in Basic, Clinical, and Translational Science
- Space Planning including the implementation of a standard policy to encompass all of the UCSF campuses. Broad issues seems to be lack of practical planning plus lack of oversight of plan implementation.
  - Moving forward, departments will have to provide information on actual space allocation (e.g., which people and how many are in which particular room) and plans for future use. For space not being utilized, departments will be expected to come up with a very specific plan for its future use or run the risk of potentially forfeiting the space.
  - Hopefully those faculty who produce less research funding (based on their research field) could be absorbed into facilities with faculty who have robust funding.
  - The Senate and COR will continue to monitor this topic throughout the year.

Old Business
Analyst Cleaver encouraged members to review the COR Annual Report 2012-2013. (Attachment 3)

New Business
None

Chair Myers adjourned the meeting at 12:00 pm.

Senate Staff:
Alison Cleaver, Senior Analyst/415/514-3808; Alison.cleaver@ucsf.edu