



Committee on Research

Annual Report 2000-2001

Dennis Deen, PhD
Chair

During the 2000-01 academic year the Committee on Research enjoyed a productive year during which it met six times, with a quorum present at each meeting. The Committee's work was augmented by the use of electronic communications to gather data and facilitate communication amongst Committee. The Committee devoted three meetings to the review and awarding of Individual Investigator and Shared Equipment grants. Remaining meetings were dedicated to the discussion and review of policy issues. Policy issues were the focus of a Committee effort at an unprecedented level this year and the Committee expects it will continue to be actively involved in all research policy issues of the campus.

Issues reviewed and acted on by the Committee included:

- Increase in awards for Individual Investigator Grants – from \$30,000 to \$35,000.
- Increase in Travel Grant Awards from \$500 to \$750.
- Development and Placement of Travel Grant Application on Senate Website to increase accessibility for all faculty.
- Improved policies relating to requirements for awarding grant funds.
- Review of Pruisner Proposal for an MRU in Neurodegenerative Diseases.
- Review of application procedures and guidelines for Individual Investigator and Shared Equipment Grants.
- Establishment of the UCSF “Distinguished Clinical Research Lectureship”.
- Review of Proposed Non-ORU Center for Tobacco Control Research and Education.
- Selection of 44th Faculty Research Lecturer.
- Awarding of \$42,210.55 Academic Senate Travel Grant Awards
- Awarding of Shared Equipment Grants, totaling \$330,811.76.
- Awarding of Individual Investigator Grants, totaling \$ 830,869.40.
- Participation by Committee members at the request of the Vice Chancellor for Research, in review of numerous foundation research grants proposals.

Systemwide Issues



During the academic year, various system-wide issues were discussed at the University-wide Committee on Research (UCOR) meetings which took place during the months of October through June. The topics as reported to the membership were as follows:

The Governor of California this year initiated a call for proposals for the creation of three to four new California Institutes for Science and Innovation (CISI). The State promised to administer \$300 million toward the development and operation of these new institutes. Of seven proposals received, three were funded. UCSF, in collaboration with UC Berkeley and UC Santa Cruz, submitted a joint proposal to create an Institute for Bioengineering, Biotechnology and Quantitative Biomedical Research, which would be located at the Mission Bay campus. This proposal was amongst the three selected by the State for funding.

University Issues

Bylaw Revision

The Committee reviewed its bylaws to reflect current practice and submitted suggested changes to the Academic Senate Committee on Rules and Jurisdiction. Bylaw revisions included an increase of the number of members of the Committee in order to facilitate the review of grant applications.

Review of Proposal for Establishing a Multi Campus Research Unit Institute for Neurodegenerative Diseases

Two members of the Committee were appointed to participate in a joint task-force with members of the Senate Academic Planning and Budget Committee to review and make recommendations relative to the proposal for establishing a Multicampus Research Unit (MRU) Institute for Neurodegenerative Diseases (IND) as proposed by Dr. Stan Pruisiner. The Committee's report, along with the report prepared by the Academic Planning and Budget Committee were submitted to Vice Chancellor D. Bainton.

Review of Proposed Non-ORU Center for Tobacco Control Research and Education

At Academic Senate Chair Lawrence Pitts' request, the Committee reviewed the proposal for a Non-ORU Center for Tobacco Control Research and Education. The Committee



expressed general enthusiasm for the Center, but expressed several concerns which it conveyed to Dr. Pitts in a letter of March, 2001.

Specifically, the Committee indicated that the proposal inadequately described some aspects of the proposed Center and its operation; namely, the organizational structure of the Center and its anticipated financial and administrative affects on the library, where it will be housed.

Concerns cited include:

- The long-term vision of the Center is unclear – the proposal failed to describe how the tobacco industry documents, to be housed in the Center, will be an academic resource in years to come and what academic questions they will address in the future.
- The main source of funding for the proposed center is a \$15 million gift/grant from the American Legacy Foundation. It is unclear how the Library archive will use its share of the yearly funds generated by this grant.
- Further clarification of the reporting structure of the Center's organization is needed: the duration of the term of the Associate Director was not specified; it was not clear to whom the Director would report.
- The document is unclear as to which types of postdoctoral fellows the Center hopes to train (i.e. from which disciplines), and fails to assess whether proposed training programs might overlap with training programs already offered on the campus.
- Because of the proposed space to be used by the Center in the Library, the Committee believes that the Library leadership should be more prominent in the organizational structure of the Center.

Grants and Awards

Individual Investigator Grants

The Committee accepted applications for Individual Investigator grants during two rounds of funding: in the Fall and in the Spring. Of 43 applications received, twenty-eight were fully funded to a total of \$830,869.40.

Shared Equipment Grants

The Committee received fifteen applications for Shared Equipment Grants. Thirteen were funded totaling \$330,811.76.

A tagging system for shared equipment purchased with Academic Senate funds was implemented by the Committee. Stickers bearing the Academic Senate will be made



available to attach to all equipment purchased with grant funds from the Academic Senate. These stickers will serve a dual purpose - to acknowledge funding and to identify the equipment as the property of the Academic Senate.

Travel Grants

One of the first actions of the Committee in the beginning of the academic year was to increase the amount of travel grant awards from \$500 to \$750. The Committee adopted the policy that faculty could apply one time each academic year for a travel grant up to, but not exceeding \$750. The criteria for funding remain the same. The Committee awarded a total of 72 travel grants, in the amount of \$ 42,210.55.

Policy Discussions

- The Committee discussed the current redesign of the Academic Senate website which has improved access to information for committees. In order to facilitate grant application procedures, the Academic Senate would like to make forms available on the website for future applicants and explore the options of a web-based application format. A sub-committee was appointed to examine possible formats for online applications and to draft initial policy changes for review by the Committee. This sub-committee will report back to the Committee in the next academic year with recommendations for policy and procedural changes relative to grant applications. Prior to this report, formatting changes to online application details were made by Senate staff to clarify the application procedure.
- In conjunction with the Academic Senate Office, and in response to a growing number of overages in accounts of awards granted by COR, the Committee approved a new policy relating to the awarding of grant funds. The Senate Office now requires all faculty members who receive grants from the Academic Senate and their Department Chairs to provide the Senate Office with a letter which states agreement to adhere to the requirements of the Grant Award whereby at the time of funding, the Senate Office is provided with a Department Fund/Account to be used by the Academic Senate in the event an overage above and beyond the Grant Award appears on the Senate's ledgers. The Senate Office requires receipt of this letter as a prerequisite to funding.

44th Faculty Research Lecture Award

The Committee received six very impressive and competitive nominations for the Academic Senate's 44th Faculty Research Lecture Award. Following careful consideration of all of the nominations, the Committee unanimously approved the



selection of Zena Werb, PhD as the 44th Faculty Research Lecturer. A Power Point presentation of Dr. Werb's lecture, *The Degradation Monologues*, can be accessed through the Senate's home page <http://www.ucsf.edu/senate/indexflash.html>.

Distinguished Clinical Research Lectureship

In September 2000, the Committee, following lengthy discussions, approved the concept of creating a second lectureship to recognize and honor the clinical and research achievements of a UCSF faculty member and communicated this recommendation to the Senate leadership. In November 2000, the Senate received a letter from Dr. Steve Cummings, Dean Haile Debas, and Executive Vice-Chancellor Zach Hall indicating solid endorsement of the Committee's proposal.

The Senate will now sponsor two Lecture awards. For the first time this year, the "Distinguished Clinical Research Lecture will be held on Friday, November 9, 2001 at 3:30p.m. in Cole Hall and will honor a member of the UCSF Faculty for their achievements in clinical research. This lecture will be held annually in the Fall. Applications for the first lectureship are being accepted until September 10, 2001.

The Academic Senate will continue to sponsor the Faculty Research Lecture as it has for the past 44 years each spring during Founder's Week, honoring the research accomplishments of basic scientists at UCSF who are members of the Academic Senate.

Respectfully submitted,

Committee on Research

Dennis F. Deen, Chair
James Cleaver, Vice-Chair
James Bristow
Caroline Damsky
Stuart A. Gansky
Ulrike Heberlein
Sunil D. Kapila
Jon Levine
Emil T. Lin
Timothy Roberts
Betty Davies



Kevan Shokat
Sharon Hall
Russell Pieper
Mark Goldsmith
Mark Ratcliffe
John Wiencke, Clinical/Adjunct Representative
Girish Vyas, UCORP Representative

Prepared by:
Elizabeth Langdon-Gray
476-1307
elangdon-gray@senate.ucsf.edu