

Committee on Research
Janet Myers, PhD, MPH, Chair

ANNUAL REPORT
2015-2016

Issues reviewed and acted on by the Committee included:

- Funding of twenty-three Principal Investigators in the Research Allocation Program (RAP)
- 2016-2017 Faculty Research Lecturers in Basic, Clinical, and Translational Science
- Academic Senate's Chancellors Funds

Task Forces, Special Committees, and Sub-Committees:

- University Committee on Research Policy (UCORP) – Dieter Meyerhoff
- Office of Sponsored Research Advisory Group – Dieter Gruenert and Edward Murphy
- Specialist Task Force – Janet Myers
- Space Development Committee – Janet Myers
- Space Management Subcommittee – Srikantan Nagarajan
- RAP Executive Steering Committee – Janet Myers
- RAP Sub-Committee – Lea Grinberg, Alka Kanaya, Suzaynn Schick, Susanne Mueller, Heather Leutwyler, Heather; Adam Renslo, and Dieter Meyerhoff
- RAP Team Science Sub-Committee – Murphy, Ed

Issues for Next Year (2016-2017)

- Discussion of Committee on Research's portion of the Senate's Chancellors Funds
- Resource Allocation Program
- Ongoing discussion and partnership with Campus Leadership
- Selection of the 2017-2018 Faculty Research Lecturers in Basic, Clinical, and Translational Science

2015-2016 Members

Janet Myers, Chair	Alka Kanaya
Stuart Gansky, Vice Chair	Heather Leutwyler
Jing Cheng	Stephen Massa
Lea Grinberg	Dieter Meyerhoff
Dieter Gruenert	Susanne Mueller
John Imboden	Edward Murphy
Galen Joseph	Suzaynn Schick

Number of Meetings: 8

Senate Analyst: Kenneth Laslavic

Systemwide Business

The Regents of the University of California Committee on Health Services

Regents of the University of California considered governance changes to the Committee on Health Services

COR members provided the following comments to the UCSF Academic Senate Coordinating Committee

While the Committee on Research recognized the financial pressure on UC Health due to cost-controls mandated under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, reduction in state and federal support for medical education, and stagnant levels of research funding, members expressed concern that the proposed changes to the Regents of the University of California Committee on Health Services could result in decision-making that prioritizes the ability to take advantage of system-level efficiencies over the ability to maintain alignment across the “triple mission” (patient care, research, and education).

Although cost savings may result from coordination that allows academic medical centers to leverage economies of scale within UC Health, coordination may also result in the deterioration of existing research relationships which may actually result in the loss of research revenue.

The Committee on Research was concerned that the proposed governance structure, with a position for the Executive Vice President of UC Health, would challenge the University’s ability to maintain alignment across the “triple mission” of patient care, research, and education.

Changes to the Committee on Health Services should not prioritize potential economies of scale over the ability to maintain alignment across the triple mission of patient care, research, and education.

Retirement Options Task Force

The 2015/2016 Budget agreement between the University of California, Governor Jerry Brown, and the California State Legislature established that the State would contribute \$436 million over three years to support the University of California Retirement Plan (UCRP). A condition of this agreement was that the University would implement a new pension tier applicable to employees hired after July 1, 2016.

The San Francisco Division of the Academic Senate expressed its concerns through a letter submitted to University of California Academic Senate Chair Dan Hare. The letter stated that “the UCSF Academic Senate finds that the proposed new tier, if implemented, would represent not a shift in benefits, but a cut to remuneration currently enjoyed by all UC employees. Therefore, the San Francisco Division cannot support these recommendations due to the negative impact that they will have in the recruitment and retention of quality Health Science faculty.”

Divisional Business

Topics Explored during 2015-2016

Process Topics:

Microbiology Teaching Laboratory renaming

Molecular Design Institute (MDI) Organized Research Unit (ORU) renaming

Resource Allocation Program (RAP) Grant Funding
Selection of the 2016-2017 Faculty Research Lectures Recipients
2016 FRL – Clinical Science (Steve Morin, PhD)
2017 FRL – Basic Science (Arturo Alvarez-Buylla, PhD)
2017 FRL – Translational Science (Sarah Nelson, PhD)
Travel Grants

Policy Topics:

New APM 330 guidance
Subaward Process Improvements
OSR Advisory – Funding Model Subcommittee
Notice of Proposed Rulemaking: Common Rule

PROCESS TOPICS

Microbiology Teaching Laboratory

- The Committee on Research approved the request to rename the Microbiology Teaching Laboratory in honor of Warren Levinson, MD, PhD.

Molecular Design Institute (MDI) ORU

- School of Pharmacy Dean requested approval of a name change for an existing ORU, the Molecular Design Institute (MDI). The Committee on Research approved the request to rename the ORU the Quantitative Biosciences Institute.

Resource Allocation Program (RAP) Grant Funding

Digital Health Research Grants Awarded: 1

Sabrina Darrow, PhD (SOM: Psychiatry): *Personalizing a transdiagnostic approach to young adult mental health assessment via technology*

Family Support Grant Awarded: 1

Kirsten Kangelaris, MD (SOM: Medicine): *Testing the association between Olfactomedin 4 and Lipocalin 2 and respiratory failure and shock among adults with sepsis*

Pilot for Junior Investigators in Basic and Clinical/Translational Sciences: 8

Thuy Doan, MD, PhD (SOM: Ophthalmology): *Identification of pathogens in ocular specimens by next-generation sequencing*

Huimin Geng, PhD (SOM: Laboratory Medicine): *Genetic and Epigenetic Biomarkers and Pathways in CNS Lymphoma Invasion*

Guo Huang, PhD (SOM: Physiology): *Molecular control of mammalian organ regenerative potential*

Shingo Kajimura, PhD (SOD: Cell & Tissue Biology): *Molecular links between BAT and bone: physiological roles of beige fat beyond heat-generation*

Eleni Linos, MD (SOM: Dermatology): *Online Advertising for Melanoma Prevention*

Monika Sarkar, MD, MAS (SOM: Medicine): *Androgens and Nonalcoholic Steatohepatitis: The Role of "Male" Sex Hormones in Women with NASH*

Yin Shen, PhD (SOM: Neurology): *Dissecting the regulatory networks controlling SOX2 expression during neurodevelopment*

David Quigley (SOM: Epidemiology & Biostatistics): *Sensitizing cells to PARP inhibition by conditional BRCA haploin sufficiency*

Pilot of Established Investigators in Basic and Clinical/Translational Sciences: 7

Kim Baltzell, RN, PhD, FAAN (SON: Family Health Care Nursing): *Provider practices in non-malarial fevers: A pilot study in Malawi*

Steven Cheung, MD (SOM: Otolaryngology): *Motor Planning and Control in Unilateral Vocal Fold Paralysis*

Manish Aghi, MD, PhD (SOM: Neurological Surgery): *Defining alterations in the retinoblastoma pathway in pituitary adenomas*

Yun-Fai Chris Lau, PhD (SOM: Medicine): *Sexual dimorphisms in Hirschsprung Disease*

Samuel Goldman, MD, MPH (SOM: Neurology): *Parkinson's Disease concordance and heritability in the NAS/NRC World War II veteran twins cohort*

Nancy Hessel, MSPH (SOP: Clinical Pharmacy): *Risk of second cancers among people with HIV/AIDS*

Sara Newmann (SOM: Obstetrics, Gynecology & Reproductive Science): *Investigating a Masculinities-based Approach to Increase Male Acceptance of Family Planning in Kenya.*

Pilot Award Program in HIV/AIDS: 1

Christopher Stauffer (SOM: Psychiatry): *The effects of intranasal oxytocin on mixed HIV sero-status, methamphetamine-using men who have sex with men*

Re-entry: 1

Olivier Danhaive (SOM: Pediatrics): *Genetic causes and molecular mechanisms of lung developmental vascular disorders*

Team Science Grant: 3

Michael Evans (SOM: Radiology): *Measuring MYC activity in double hit lymphoma with 68Ga-citrate*

Anne Slavotinek (SOM: Pediatrics): *Genomic Variation in Structural Eye Defects*

Torsten Wittmann (SOD: Cell & Tissue Biology): *Taxane-resistant metastatic prostate cancer organoids*

Hardship Grant: 1

Confidential

Total Grant Money Awarded: \$920,551

Eight COR members sat on RAP Review Committees, reviewing two cycles of grants (fall and spring): Lea Grinberg, Alka Kanaya, Suzaynn Schick, Susanne Mueller, Heather Leutwyler, Heather; Adam Renslo, and Dieter Meyerhoff

Travel Grants

The Academic Senate office, under the auspices of the Committee of Research, granted thirty travel grants during the 2015-2016 academic term. These grants are funded from Opportunity Funds. Of the \$20,000 available for travel grants during the past academic term, the Senate office awarded grants in the amount of \$13,368.49. Of these applications, two were requests for travel to conferences outside of the United States.

Selection of the 2016-2017 Faculty Research Lectures Recipients

Committee members reviewed several candidates and voted to honor three lecturers during the 2016-2017 term. Those to be honored are:

- Faculty Research Lecture - Clinical Science (Fall 2016) is Steve Morin, PhD
- Faculty Research Lecture - Basic Science (Winter 2017) is Arturo Alvarez-Buylla, PhD
- Faculty Research Lecture - Translational Science (Spring 2017) is Sarah Nelson, PhD

2015 Faculty Research Lecture - Clinical Science

Since 2001, this award has been bestowed on an individual member or members of the UCSF faculty with outstanding achievements in clinical research. Nominations are made by UCSF faculty, who consider the clinical research contributions of their colleagues and submit nominations for this prestigious award to the Academic Senate Committee on Research. Each year, the Committee on Research selects the recipient of this award.

Members voted by to select Nancy Adler, PhD as the recipient of the 2015 Faculty Research Lectureship in Clinical Science.

The lecture, titled “Social Determinants of Health: Power, Population, and Precision” took place on November 17, 2015.

2016 Faculty Research Lecture - Basic Science

Since 1957, this award has been bestowed on an individual member of the UCSF faculty who has made a distinguished record in basic science. Nominations are made by UCSF faculty, who consider scientific research contributions of their colleagues and submit nominations for this prestigious award to the Academic Senate Committee on Research. Each year, the Committee on Research selects the recipient of this award

After discussion, members voted to select David O. Morgan, PhD, as the 2016 Faculty Research Lecturer in Basic Science.

His lecture, titled “Chasing Ghosts in the Cell Cycle Machine” was held on March 17, 2016.

2016 Faculty Research Lecture - Translational Science

In selecting faculty to receive this award, the Senate recognizes the immense value of those who translate bench science to a bedside clinical practice directly benefiting both patients and legions of other clinicians worldwide

COR members voted to select Dean Sheppard, M.D., to receive the 2016 Translational Science lectureship. His lecture, “Integrins as therapeutic targets: An ode to reductionism” was held on May 19, 2016.

POLICY TOPICS

New APM 330 guidance

UCOP issues the revised APM 330 (Specialist Series) on June 1, 2015. The revisions amended the educational and experiential qualifications for appointment and advancement. UCSF convened a Specialist Task Force to implement changes to the APM 330. COR Chair Janet Myers was the Senate representative on this task force. There are 2,500 specialists across the system; UCSF has 600 specialists. Recommendations have been made to professionalize them within the updated APM with respect to promotion. There is only one salary scale for all specialists.

Subaward Process Improvements

Winona Ward, Director of Research Management Service (RMS) presented on the Subaward Business Process Improvement initiative.

The Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards (Uniform Guidance) superseded Office of Management and Budget Circular A-21 Cost Principles for Educational Institutions. The Uniform Guidance increased focus on subproject risk assessment. In addition to increased focus on risk assessment, the Uniform Guidance increased focus on monitoring subproject awards.

In May 2015, in response to the steady increase in the volume of subproject award requests, RMS completed a Business Process Improvement workshop using a Lean Six Sigma approach. Lean Six Sigma is a method of systemically eliminating waste from a business process. The working group identified key areas of improvement: improve process and forms, optimize resources, develop metrics, and implement new technology.

RMS Research Service Coordinators are responsible for the subcontract process at both the proposal stage and the subcontract request stage. This process improvement eliminates the practice of “lobbing” the project back and forth between the PI and RMS.

RMS also focused on the backlog of subproject award transactions. The EVCP provided support for three new, temporary employees to address the backlog. The number of open subproject award transactions went from 400 to approximately 275.

RMS implemented a number of changes to the roles and responsibilities of positions on the Subaward Team. Subcontract Officers now have signature authority for standard subproject awards, as well as amendments. Subcontract Associates are responsible for intake and compliance review. They also manage Multiple Campus Agreements. In addition, Subcontract Associates will be trained to prepare No-Cost-Extensions and standard amendments. Multiple Campus Agreements now have a turnaround of 15 calendar days or less. All RMS Associates are trained to complete a subaward packet at the pre-award stage and how to facilitate this process at the award stage.

DISCUSSION:

Members of the Committee on Research asked how many days it should take to complete a subproject award request. Winona answered that the goal is 30 days.

Members asked how indirect costs are accounted for during the subproject award process. Winona answered that subproject award indirect costs are part of direct costs for the parent project award.

Members also asked why a negotiation would occur between RMS and the institution receiving the subproject award. For instance, if a UCSF PI reaches an agreement with the PI on a subproject, why would there be a subsequent negotiation? Winona answered that those negotiations usually result from terms and conditions of the sponsor that were acceptable to UCSF but not acceptable to the institution of the subproject.

Members remarked that the subproject award process requires a considerable number of tasks from the PI. For instance, members asked why the process requires a step of authorization from the University before the subproject is awarded. Winona said she would look into the steps in the process. She informed the committee that some requirements are mandated from the federal government and other requirements are mandated by the University.

Members asked if international subproject awards are more difficult to process. Winona answered that there are differences in privacy law, as well as insurance and indemnification. However, Winona emphasized that faculty should not be discouraged from pursuing international subproject awards.

A member asked how much advance notice should PIs provide to RMS? Winona answered that one month would be ideal.

Members of the committee discussed the new cost recovery model. Under the new model, any PI who submits an award during the reporting year will incur a flat fee. The committee asked if RMS is providing comparative data (i.e., the departmental cost last year under the old recovery model, compared to department costs this year under the new model). Winona said that RMS could provide that information if the community would find it useful. Chair Janet Myers confirmed that the community would find it useful.

OSR Funding Model

The charge of the OSR Advisory Board is to advise the Associate Vice Chancellor of Research Infrastructure and Operations, Brian Smith, on sponsored research service delivery, customer needs and strategic alignment of UCSF sponsored research with campus goals. Specifically the Board is asked to:

- Provide input on service levels
- Provide advice on service delivery
- Advise on new and/or anticipated customer needs, desires, or requirements

- Support the planning for and implementation of proposed process, policy, and technology improvements for campus rollout
- Provide input on budget
- Ensure alignment with UCSF-wide goals and objectives

OSR formed a Funding Model Subcommittee in July 2015 with the following goals:

- To evaluate the current funding model structure and, if appropriate, recommend an alternate
- To promote stakeholder engagement and transparent regarding OSR budget, decision making process for the funding mode, and funding model rate setting process.

Notice of Proposed Rulemaking: Common Rule

After review of the proposed revisions to the Common Rule and in-person and electronic debate, the Committee on Research provided feedback on the strengths and weaknesses as public comment to the Department of Health and Human Services and other Federal Departments and Agencies.

COR was favorably disposed toward proposed changes focusing on efficiency and reducing burden on research participants and researchers for low risk research. COR had concerns about expanding the scope to all clinical trials regardless of funding source if conducted at a US institution receiving federal funds for non-exempt human subjects research.

UC MEXUS

The University of California Institute for Mexico and the United States (UC MEXUS), established in 1980, is an academic research institute dedicated to encouraging, securing, and contributing to binational and Latino research and collaborative academic programs and exchanges. Its main focus is to contribute substantially to improving binational scholarly understanding and providing positive contributions to society in both Mexico and the United States, particularly in the graduate and professional areas. The issue is whether they are utilizing the resources effectively.

Going Forward

Ongoing issues under review or actions which the committee will continue into 2016-2017:

- Discussion of Committee on Research's portion of the Senate's Chancellors Funds
- 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; increasing transparency in policymaking processes and participation by faculty in these processes.
- Selection of the 2016-2017 Faculty Research Lecturers in Basic, Clinical, and Translational Science