During the 2005-2006 academic year the Committee on Research (COR) met twice, and also conducted business via email.

- In January 2006 the CoR reviewed the Health Sciences Initiative proposal and identified several areas of concern. A summary was forwarded to the Chair of the Academic Senate.

- The CoR met with the Vice-chancellor for Research in February 2006 to discuss the possibility of creating new mechanisms for recognizing excellence among the faculty. The CoR considered that the existing mechanisms are appropriate. It was considered more important for the Administration to (i) foster a supportive campus environment; (ii) to open channels of communication for the faculty to express concerns and suggestions and (iii) to respond in a timely fashion to the expressed concerns of the faculty.

- In March 2006 the CoR reviewed the White Paper proposed by the Special Committee on Scholarly Communications and identified a variety of serious concerns with the proposal. A summary of these concerns was forwarded to the Chair of the Academic Senate.

- In April 2006 the CoR reviewed and approved the proposal for the creation of the Department of Bioengineering.

- The CoR is in the final stages of reviewing the Academic Senate Grants for the current academic year. Results are expected early in June

- The CoR has identified a variety of problems associated with the steady reduction of funds (both from direct cuts and from lack of cost of living increases) that the Academic Senate Grants program has suffered over the years. To attempt to remedy this situation the CoR intends to submit a proposal to the administration for a significant increase in such funds. To support this proposal the CoR will (i) survey the faculty to identify the most serious problems associated with this scarcity of funds; (ii) summarize the equivalent programs available at the other UC campuses and provide a comparison of funding levels; and (iii) provide a series of illustrative cases that support the need for increased funding.

At the present time the data demonstrating the dramatic reduction in funds in the UCR program has been collected, as has the information from the programs in our sister campuses. The survey has been completed and we are in the process of deploying it for web access by the academic senate. The data will be analyzed over the summer and the proposal will be submitted early the next academic year.
• The CoR is collaborating with the Office of Research in the creation of a pool of faculty members that will be tapped for pre-selecting extramural proposals.

• The CoR identified the need for faculty to receive service credit for pre-selecting proposals that will be sent to extramural funding agencies. Appropriate suggestions to CAP and the OR will be sent in early June.

• The CoR has been asked to reviewing the proposal for the School of Public Policy, which it will do as soon as it finalized and distributed.

In addition the Chair has participated in all meetings of the UCORP but one, when he was substituted by the CoR Vice-Chair K. Tomoff. During this year the Chair was member of the UCORP sub-committee that reviewed the IGPP 15-year review; he is also the UCORP representative in the Competitive Graduate Student Financial Support Advisory Committee. The CoR Chair has recently been asked to become UCORP Vice-chair next academic year.

X. Cui
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K. Tomoff
J. Wudka, Chair