To be received and placed on file:

During the 2007-2008 academic year the Committee on Research (COR) conducted business via email, met twice before this report was filed, and expects to meet at least two more times before the end of the academic year.

COR’s primary activity was to significantly expand the resources and programs available for faculty research and to administer intramural grant competitions. This year, COR was able to obtain additional funding to expand the seed grant activity that was initiated last year to encourage faculty to develop new research projects that could ultimately be funded extramurally.

COR Research Fellowships – The Committee intends to award 10 fellowships of $10,000 each and 20 fellowships of $5,000 each. At least half of these fellowships will be reserved for Associate Professors. COR Research Fellowships are intended to assist faculty to develop new research projects that could be funded extramurally. All tenured members of the Academic Senate are eligible.

Regents’ Faculty Fellowships and Faculty Development Awards – The Committee intends to award 30 Regents’ Fellowships at $5,000 each. All Assistant Professors, Acting Assistant Professors, Assistant Agronomists and Acting Assistant Agronomists are eligible for these awards. Partial funding for the Regents’ Fellowship program is provided by the Office of the President (UCOP).

COR raised the maximum award granted under the Omnibus Senate Grants competition to $3,000 this year. In addition, the Omnibus application was revised to allow faculty requesting travel funds only (to travel to professional meetings for presenting a paper) to submit a simplified application. The Committee expects to fund roughly 300 Omnibus grants at an average grant size of $1,700 per applicant this year, which will result in a total Omnibus Senate Grant allocation of about $510,000. In addition, $200,000 will be allocated to COR Research Fellowships and $150,000 to the Regents’ Faculty Fellowships and Faculty Development Awards, resulting in total disbursements of $860,000 – significantly greater than the $588,190 allocated by COR last year (2006-07).

Another new development this year is that applications for all three grants were online and required to be submitted electronically. Application deadlines for all three competitions were April 7, 2008.

In other business, the Committee on Research met with Dr. Phyllis Guze to discuss the research component of the proposed UCR School of Medicine proposal. The committee voted unanimously to approve the proposal.

The Committee on Research also reviewed a number of other proposals and plans (e.g., the Senate Reorganization Plan, UC Sponsored Legislation Proposal, State Bill on Animal
Researcher Protection, etc.), and reported its findings and summaries of the discussions of its members to the Chair of the Riverside Division.

The Riverside Division was represented on the University-wide Committee on Research Policy (UCORP) by J. C. Laursen, a member of COR.

A. Balandin
M. El Hafsi
J. C. Laursen
J. G. Millar
M.C. Pirrung
L. Saavedra
J. H. Sandholtz
A. B. Deolalikar, Chair