To be received and placed on file:

During the 2009-2010 academic year, the Committee on Research (COR) conducted business via email, met seven times before this report was filed, and expects to meet at least two to three more times before the end of the academic year.

The Committee reviewed and readopted the 2009-2010 Conflict of Interest Statement.

COR's primary activity was to administer intramural grant competitions. COR worked towards clarifying the award criteria for the intramural research grant programs it manages and making the on-line application process clearer, easier, and less onerous.

The Omnibus Awards were funded to 304 faculty for a total allocation of $331,311. The maximum award for 2009-2010 was $2100.

COR Research Fellowships – The Committee awarded a total of 27 fellowships. There were 24 $4,500 awards and 3 $9,500 awards for a total amount of $142,500. Twelve of these fellowships were awarded to 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 awarded 11 $4,500 awards and 15 $9,500 awards for a total amount of $194,750. All Assistant Professors are eligible for this award. Partial funding for the Regents’ Fellowship program is provided by the Office of the President (UCOP).

Total Research funds awarded last year was $668,561.

The Committee participated in ranking the Pacific Rim Research Program applications. The committee met and evaluated 21 grant applications and identified the 12 strongest applicants.

The Committee on Research also reviewed and the proposal to divide the Finance and Management Science Department. The Committee found no significant research implications and therefore had no basis for objections to the proposal.

The Committee discussed the impacts of the furlough program on UC’s research enterprise. The Committee shares the concerns of the other UC campuses that furloughs impose hardship on students, faculty, and staff. The Committee unanimously re-affirmed its opposition to the use of COR funds for partial salary replacement for furloughs.

The Committee met with Charles Louis, Vice Chancellor for Research to discuss how the Senate could become involved in the pre-selection process of research grant applications to outside funding agencies by UCR.
The Committee reviewed the proposed changes in Procedures for Election of the UCR Division Senate leadership Positions and had no strong objections to the proposed changes.

The Committee proposed a change in Bylaw 8.10. The proposal change would allow the committee to expand its charge to include “matters pertaining to research policy on the UC Riverside campus. The committee wishes the proposed bylaw to give future Committees discretion concerning matters considered, while at the same time committing it to a few specific duties, advise the Academic Senate on general policies and budgetary needs concerning research activities that are supported by the funds at the disposal of the committee. The intent is that the Committee has a role in advising the Senate on the adequacy of funds at the disposal of the Committee. The proposed change also defines a new specific duty for the Committee to cooperate with the Office of Research on the pre-selection of campus nominees or applicants.

The Committee was asked to comment on the first draft of the Strategic Plan, the Subcommittee Report on Excellence in Research and Creative Activity. Overall, the Committee felt that the report placed excessive emphasis on two metrics of success of the research enterprise. This excessive emphasis would lead to unbalanced growth, favoring the big-money branches of science and engineering, and at the cost of demoralizing faculty members in other areas.

The Riverside Division was represented on the University-wide Committee on Research Policy (UCORP) by K.A. Hammond, a member of COR.

The Committee on Research would like to thank the Academic Senate staff, especially Susan Stracener and Shanshan Liao, for the administrative and programming support they provided to the Committee. (Richard, you put this in last year, didn't know if you wanted to keep it in.)

R. Clare
J. Giegerich
K.A. Hammond
J. G. Millar
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