During the 2011-2012 academic year, the Committee on Research (COR) met five times.

The Committee reviewed and readopted the prior year’s Conflict of Interest Statement.

COR’s primary activity was to administer intramural grant competitions. COR worked to clarify the wording of the Call for the intramural research grant programs it manages and to make the on-line application process clearer and less onerous.

COR was responsible for the pre-review of the Pac Rim grants submitted by UCR faculty, selecting the maximum permitted 8 grants for submission for systemwide review. COR re-adopted last year’s criteria and scoring mechanisms in reviewing 10 Pac Rim applications.

The committee discussed the Review of UC Observatories, a document circulated by Senate Chair Mary Gauvain that came from the systemwide Academic Senate. The committee discussed the Review and generally agreed with the Review’s sentiment that the UC Observatories generate excellent research and attract high quality faculty; however COR felt that the justification was weak in important areas. Specific areas where the committee felt important data were lacking were: the degree of OR faculty support, graduate and post-doctoral training, extramural funding, and the potential role of use charges.

COR reviewed and discussed the report of the joint Senate-Administration faculty salaries task force. In summary the committee found that, while the Taskforce made an interesting proposal to correct the current inadequacy of Faculty salaries, it is not clear that it inevitably improves the situation more effectively than a simple increment towards the Comp8 salary levels. The advantages and disadvantages of the new proposal relative to using the Comp8 still need to be clearly delimited. COR was concerned that setting salaries based primarily on hiring and retention (step 1 in the report) has potential problems, especially at the tenured ranks, and that the proposal will lead (in step 2) to the establishment of salary differences among the campuses, an outcome that represents a fundamental shift in University policy.

Research grant applications received in 2011-2012 for 2012-2013 funding included: 303 Omnibus (157 Travel Only and 146 Research and Travel), 47 COR, and 30 Regents.

The Omnibus Awards were funded to 283 faculty (147 Travel Only and 136 Research and Travel Awards). The total allocation was $354,415 ($166,640 Travel Only and $187,775 Research and Travel Awards). The maximum Travel Only award was $1,150 and the maximum Research and Travel Award was $1,650.

Committee on Research (COR) Fellowships were funded to 20 faculty. There were 5 $9,000 awards; 12 $7,500 awards; and 3 $4,500 awards for a total allocation of $148,500. 8 of these
were awarded to Associate Professors. COR 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 were funded to 19 faculty. There were 5 $8,900 awards; 7 $4,000 awards; and 7 $3,500 awards for a total allocation of $97,000. All Assistant Professors are eligible for this award. The Vice Chancellor for Research graciously supplemented the Academic Senate Regents Fellowship budget of $67,015 by adding an additional $29,985 of funding from his own budget so that the Committee on Research was able to fund more Regents Fellowships.

Total Research funds awarded last year was $599,915. For reference, this amount represents a 29.5% reduction compared to the amount awarded just 4 years ago (2007-08) of $851,316.

The Riverside Division was represented on the University-wide Committee on Research Policy (UCORP) by Robert Clare, a member of COR. COR requested, through our representative, to be informed of non-confidential UCORP agenda items in advance so that they could be discussed by COR prior to UCORP meetings. This request has met with limited success.

Leonard Nunney, Chair
Robert Clare
Marsha Ing
Jeanette Kohl
Anthea Kraut
Tanya Nieri
Khaleel Razak
Dana Simmons
Albert Wang