As of May 4, 1998, the Committee on Research (COR) met seven times during the 1997-98 academic year.

1. As the first item of business on October 29, 1998, COR adopted a Conflict of Interest Statement by a vote of 7 positive, 0 negative. This statement was the same as the previous year. It also reviewed the COR Bylaws.

2. COR received 14 Pacific Rim proposals in January, 1998, and provided a ranking and comments to the Office of Research Affairs. Each proposal was reviewed in detail by three committee members and the final ranking was determined by the full committee. The 10 top-ranked proposals were due at the Office of the President by February 14, 1998.

3. For 1997-98, a total of $693,007 was requested to support the intramural research activities of 282 UCR faculty. A total of $410,287 in Academic Senate research funds was awarded. The average award was $1,457 with a maximum award amount of $2,400. The amount of $10,000 was kept in reserve for new Fall 1997 faculty members. This has now all been awarded. For 1998-99, $857,608 has been requested from 268 faculty, an increase of 24%. This is the third year that Academic Senate research funds have been reduced by $5,000.

4. Continuing with a major undertaking that began with COR in 1996-97, we reviewed the 1997-98 application for Academic Senate funds for research and scholarly activities by faculty. Historically, COR funds three categories of research: Intramural Research, Field Research Travel and Travel to Scholarly Meetings. In an effort to provide greater flexibility to the faculty in the use of these crucial resources, eliminate unnecessary restrictions and simplify the application process, a single one-time "OMNIBUS APPLICATION FOR ACADEMIC SENATE RESEARCH FUNDS" was introduced in 1997-98. New changes were introduced for 1998-99. All research expenses charged to individual faculty awards will be administered through faculty's home department office, using a single accounting number. Travel reimbursements will no longer be submitted to the Academic Senate Office. Expenditures exceeding the initial award will not be covered with Academic Senate funds. Use of awarded funds for research-related activities will be left to the discretion of the individual faculty member. It is expected that this use will be closely related to that outlined in the original proposal. These measures should provide faculty with greater flexibility to use these competitively-awarded research funds. The applications were due March 9, 1998. Submission of this application on the web was introduced for the first time. This process is already being improved for next year. COR welcomes feedback from the Academic Senate membership on the effectiveness of this new proposal plan and the method of submission.
5. A major research report, originating from systemwide, was reviewed again by COR. This report (available at http://apollo.gse.uci.edu/UCORP/climate.html) presented results of a survey fielded by the University Committee on Research Policy (UCORP) in January-March, 1996, to 3,300 members of the UC Academic Senate on all nine campuses. A total of 2400 responded. This report retrospectively was entitled "The Deteriorating Environment for Conducting Research at the University of California" and included, in two sections, numerical results from the survey questions and an analysis of the written comments. Although many specific factors were identified as interfering with faculty member’s ability to produce outstanding research, three major problem areas were identified. These were 1) inadequate research equipment and support personnel, 2) inadequate research and storage space and 3) inadequate direct financial support for research.

6. COR has provided written responses to the proposed UCR center for Research in Intelligent Systems and Conservation Biology (cRIS). It has also provided the Office of Research Affairs with ranking of proposals for the Multicampus Research Incentive Fund program.

7. The Chair of COR participated in the monthly meetings of UCORP, as the campus representative and vice-chair. Several MRU/ORU 5-year review reports were considered. Further Information was requested on the returned overhead distribution (Indirect Cost Recovery) policies on the different campuses. Issues under continuous discussion included UC Merced, DANR, the DOE Laboratories and mission of the UC medical schools.

8. COR has consulted with Vice Chancellor of Research, Harry Green, on research related issues at UCR and how they impact Academic Senate members.

9. Still to be accomplished this year is the review of proposals for Regents’ Lecturers.

Respectfully submitted by the Committee on Research

Janet Blacher
Gary Dymski
Daniel Gallie
Mary Gauvain
René Lysloff
Eugene Nothnagel
James Parr
Allen Zych, Chair