As of May 12, 1999, the Committee on Research (COR) met six times during the 1998-99 academic year.

1. As the first item of business on October 19, 1998, COR unanimously adopted a Conflict of Interest statement. This statement was the same as the previous year. The Committee also reviewed COR procedures.

2. COR received eleven proposals for the University of California’s Pacific Rim Research Program in January 1999, reviewed them, and provided comments to the Office of Research Affairs. The full committee read and commented on each proposal. Based on each member’s ordinal ranking, ten of the eleven proposals were sent forward to the University of California Office of the President, four of these ten proposals were subsequently funded by the Executive Committee of the Pacific Rim Research Program in March 1999.

3. For 1998-99, a total of $856,608 was originally requested to support the intramural research activities of 268 UCR faculty. A total of $391,168 in Academic Senate research funds was awarded to 280 faculty. The average award was $1399 with a maximum awarded amount of $2,700. The amount of $10,000 was kept in reserve for new Fall 1998 faculty members. For 1999-2000, $619,715 has been requested by 267 faculty, a decrease of 27%. It should be noted that this decrease in requested funds resulted primarily from the committee’s decision to restrict faculty requests to a maximum of $2700. After Academic Senate research funds were reduced by $5,000 in 1995-96, 1996-97, and 1997-98, the funding level for 1999 was restored.

4. The COR made a concerned effort in Fall 1998 to further streamline the application process for intramural research funds. In the two prior years, the COR undertook a major effort to streamline the application and evaluation process for Academic Senate funds for research and scholarly activities by UCR faculty. Faculty were asked to submit a unified application for the entire amount of Academic Senate funds requested. The three categories of expenditure--travel to scholarly meetings, field research travel, and intramural research funds—were to be requested in one application with a unified rationale. In addition, a web-based application form was utilized for the first time in the application process for academic year 1998-99. Further, budgetary control was decentralized and faculty were given more flexibility in the use of their Academic Senate research funds. The changes made to this reformed application process in Fall 1998 by this year’s COR were incremental. The web-based application process was improved with the expertise of Academic Computing. Application information
provided on the internet was made available in a “frequently asked question” format. Faculty were asked to limit their requests for funds to the maximum available under this program (that is, $2700), to enhance the uniformity of application requests.

5. COR provided written feedback to the Chair of the Riverside Division of the Academic Senate on several proposed UCR centers.

6. The Chair of COR participated in the monthly meetings of UCORP, as campus representative. Several MRU/ORU quinquennial and 5-year review reports were considered. A major initiative to establish contact with bench scientists and administrative staff was launched under the leadership of Allen Zych, former chair of COR at UCR and current Chair of UCORP.

7. The Chair arranged for Mary Gauvain to serve as the regular COR representative to the Faculty Senate Advisory Committee at UCR. Mary attended seven meetings of the Advisory Committee.

8. The review of proposals for Regents’ Lecturers will be completed by the COR on May 14, 1999.

Respectfully submitted by the Committee on Research

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