

**Annual Report: Academic Year 2015-2016
Davis Division: Academic Senate**

Committee on Research

Total Meetings: 8	Meeting frequency Approx. 3 meetings/quarter	Average hours of committee work each week: 15 hours (committee + chair)
--------------------------	--	--

<u>Total Grant Proposals Reviewed:</u> Small Grants (2K): 212 Large Grants (10-25K): 73 Travel Grants (\$800): 413 (FY 2015-16) <u>Research Grant Proposals Approved for Funding in 2016-17:</u> Small Grants (2K): 183 Large Grants (10-25K): 19 Travel Grants (\$800): 413 (FY 2015-16)	Total of reviewed grant proposals deferred from the previous year: 0	Total projects deferred to the coming academic year: None.
--	---	---

Listing of bylaw changes proposed: **None**

Listing of committee policies established or revised: **None**

- Issues considered by the committee:
1. Chemical and Lab Safety
 2. Indirect Cost Rates and ORUs
 3. Faculty Effectiveness and Morale
 4. Research Centers
 5. Campus Core Research Facilities Program
 6. ORU Review – 5-Year Review (PICN)
 7. Graduate Student Welfare Proposal
 8. COR Large Grant Evaluation Rubric
 9. Good Laboratory Practices (GLP)
 10. HIP Proposal
 11. ORU Review – Disestablishment Request (IGA)
 12. UCOP Installed Cyber-monitoring Equipment

- 13. Equity Adjustments and Service and Step Plus
- 14. New Initiative Grant Metrics
- 15. Transition to Canvas
- 16. Research Core Advisory Council (RCAC): Short/long-term Goals

Recommended procedural or policy changes for the coming year: **None.**

COR Items Discussed/Reviewed During 2015-16:

The Committee on Research dealt with a number of issues of substantial importance to the campus during the 2015-2016 academic year. The Committee on Research Chair attended Senate Executive Council meetings, Representative Assembly meetings, and Provost Senate Chair's meetings. The Vice Chancellor for Research (or a representative from his office) attended some of the Committee on Research meetings and provided information and updates on campus and systemwide issues and proposed new initiatives in the Office of Research.

2016-17 COR Grant Awards:

The Committee on Research awarded 183 Small Grants in Aid and 19 New Initiative/Collaborative Interdisciplinary Grants to Promote Extramural Funding for the 2016-17 academic year. In addition, the committee awarded 417 Research Travel Grants during the 2015-16 academic year. Travel grants remain the first priority of the grants program. Overall, the Committee on Research was able to award 86% of all small grant applications, 26% of all large grant proposals, and 100% of all travel grant applications. The relative distribution of monies across campus remained consistent with an approximately 50/50 distribution between the physical and biological sciences and the social sciences and humanities.

Joint Senate-Administration Animal Task Force:

The joint task force was charged at the request of Chancellor Katehi in April 2015. The goals of the task force were to address the three major concerns raised by the Animal Subcommittee of the Academic Senate Committee on Research.

1. The infrastructure on the UC Davis and Sacramento campuses is inadequate to support both ongoing and anticipated growth in future rodent-related research.
2. The costs for housing and care of rodents is higher than at comparable institutions, is becoming unaffordable for many, and costs vary greatly across campus in a non-transparent manner.
3. The oversight and decision-making processes to deal with animal-related research and research infrastructure at UC Davis are fragmented.

The strategic vision developed by the Joint Animal Task Force is as follows:

UC Davis will establish a comprehensive plan to modernize animal and teaching research facilities, infrastructure, and services. This plan will be managed by a respected and highly qualified leader, in collaboration with key stakeholders, who is empowered with adequate resources to achieve clearly defined strategic and operational objectives.

The Joint Task Force has been meeting continuously since April 2015 and identified the following priorities:

1. Investment in Infrastructure

The external review by the Estime Group identified several severe deficiencies with existing animal housing facilities, and the need for additional housing and procedural space to meet current needs and to support the estimated faculty growth, particularly for those using rodents in their research.

Extensive analysis by the Animal Task Force, which was supported by the report of the Estime Group, identified as the first and most urgent priority the need for a new cage wash facility to support both the Davis and Sacramento campuses. While initially not favored as an option, because of high upfront costs, the task force concluded that the campus must move forward urgently with developing plans for a new rodent research building to be located adjacent to the newly planned cage wash facility. Planning for the new facility are moving ahead so that the facility will hopefully be completed no later than 2018-19.

2. Rodent Rate Structure

One of the most frequently voiced concerns by faculty revolved around the animal housing and care costs (per-diem rates). Therefore the task force conducted a comprehensive analysis of the costs involved in the housing and care of rodents. Further, the Estime Group analyzed UC Davis rates relative to other comparable research institutions and concluded that the UC Davis rates are significantly higher for both mice and rates. Given this situation, a commitment to reduce the per-diem rates was made by the Provost and Budget and Institutional Analysis and articulated to faculty during the town hall meetings in December 2015.

3. Administrative Oversight

The animal research and teaching program at UC Davis is one of the largest and most diverse programs in the United States and is providing the campus with significant revenue from indirect cost recovery. The current crisis with regard to animal care has been brought on by a lack of clear administrative structure that enables information about these issues to be brought to the attention of decision makers on campus.

The recruitment of a Deputy Institutional Official (DIO) was considered to address the outlined problem. Due to some difficulties during the recruitment process for the DIO position, the search was put on hold by the administration. In July and August 2016, the task force met with the Acting Chancellor and Acting Provost and a decision was made to again move forward with the DIO recruitment as well as recruit and interim DIO to lead the efforts to improve animal care that are already underway. Members of the task force submitted potential faculty names to the administration for the interim DIO position. In addition, with the departure of Chief Financial Office Dave Lawlor in the spring of 2016, the Academic Senate has agreed to take on support of the Animal Task Force as a Special Committee of the Executive Council.

Joint Senate/Administration Task Force on Research Centers:

At the present time, there is a great variation in the way interdisciplinary research is organized, administered, funded and evaluated at UC Davis. This has led to great confusion within the campus regarding how centers and institutes are established, and who is accountable for ensuring the quality and relevance of centrally supported research activities. In response to this situation, the UC Davis Academic Senate in partnership with the Administration is creating a joint task force to evaluate and make recommendations for new campus guidelines for research centers and institutes. The joint task force will have two members from the Committee on Research and will come up with a summary of recommendations for policies and guidelines for administering campus research units and strengthening interdisciplinary interactions. The following aims will be discussed and evaluated:

1. What is the role of research units in advancing UC Davis as a world-class research university?
2. What are the roles and expectations of Academic Senate faculty, Academic Federation faculty, post-doctoral scholars, and graduate and undergraduate students in research units?
3. What basic management principles should underlie the design and operation of research centers, including but not limited to financial operations and human resources?

Faculty Effectiveness Questionnaire:

COR developed a questionnaire, approved by the Academic Senate Executive Council in May 2015, regarding faculty effectiveness and morale that was distributed to all Academic Senate and Academic Federation faculty in December 2015. In 1997, the University of California Academic Senate Welfare and Morale Committee prepared a study called "The Deteriorating Environment for Conducting Research at the University of California". As we recover from the recession, anticipate significant increases in student and faculty numbers in the 2020 Initiative, and cope with reduced federal funding, over-commitment, and burnout, the Academic Senate and Academic Federation Committees on Research wanted to solicit from all faculty feedback related to research challenges, frustrations and opportunities faculty perceive at UC Davis. COR will use the input and responses to understand what the community can do to support faculty to achieve research aspirations and serve our stakeholders. The survey results and analysis were submitted to Senate Chair Knoesen in July 2016.

Respectfully submitted,

Janet Foley, Chair
Paul Ashwood
Robert Brosnan
Frederic Chedin
Nicholas Curro
Lorien Dalrymple
Diana Davis
Roland Faller
Dietmar Kuelz
Delmar Larsen
Maria Louise Marco
David Pleasure

Natarajan Sukumar
Brian Trainor
Michael Lerche, Academic Federation Representative
Harris Lewin, Vice Chancellor for Research (Ex-officio)
Kimberly Pulliam, Analyst