

**Annual Report: Academic Year 2012-2013
Davis Division: Academic Senate**

Committee on Research

Total Meetings: 8	Meeting frequency Approx. 3 meetings/quarter	Average hours of committee work each week: 4 hours
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<u>Total Grant Proposals Reviewed:</u> Small Grants (2K): 162 Large Grants (10-25K): 87 Travel Grants (\$800): 364 (FY 2012-13) <u>Research Grant Proposals Approved for Funding in 2012-13:</u> Small Grants (2K): 155 Large Grants (10-25K): 15 Travel Grants (\$800): 364 (FY 2012-13)	Total of reviewed grant proposals deferred from the previous year: 0	Total projects deferred to the coming academic year: None.
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Listing of bylaw changes proposed: **None**

Listing of committee policies established or revised: ***Funding cutoffs for all programs will be determined by availability of funds. The committee will examine the policies again during the 2013-2014 academic year and will consider other revisions.***

- Issues considered by the committee:
1. Prioritizing and Strengthening Graduate Education at UC Davis Report
 2. APM 430 – Visiting Scholars Proposed New Policy
 3. Proposed Open Access Publication Policy
 4. Carry Forward Balances Working Paper
 5. New Systemwide Laboratory Safety Policies
 6. Office of Research Initiatives
 7. Self-Supporting Graduate Programs Proposed Policy
 8. New Composite Benefit Rates and New Indirect Cost Rate
 9. Marine and Coastal Sciences Institute

Recommended procedural or policy changes for the coming year: ***Discuss “conflict of interest” with COR members at the first meeting in the fall. Explain that any COR members that plan on applying for a large grant must resign from the committee because it places a huge burden on the rest of the committee when reviewing large grant proposals. In addition, the committee must find and appoint ad hoc reviewers to review the proposals from COR members and this process takes a significant amount of time.***

COR Items Discussed/Reviewed During 2012-13:

The Committee on Research dealt with a number of issues of substantial importance to the campus during the 2012-2013 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, including the ongoing reorganization and proposed new initiatives in the Office of Research.

2013-14 COR Grant Awards:

The Committee on Research awarded 155 Small Grants in Aid and 15 New Initiative/Collaborative Interdisciplinary Grants to Promote Extramural Funding for the 2013-14 academic year. In addition, the committee awarded 364 Research Travel Grants during the 2012-13 academic year. 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. Travel grants remain the first priority of the grants program. Overall, the Committee on Research was able to award all eligible small grants and all eligible travel grant applications and stay within budget.

Changes in Funding Source for COR Grants:

The 19920 funding source for Academic Senate Committee on Research (COR) grants was changed to 07427 (opportunity funds) effective July 1, 2012. This change was in response to consolidation of general fund and Indirect Cost Return (ICR) fund numbers centrally on campus. ***Therefore, all departments are now required to supply account numbers that will accept 07427 funding for any new grants awarded during the 2013-2014 academic year.***

Benefit Costs for New Initiative and Collaborative Interdisciplinary Grants:

Given the new funding source (07427) for COR grants, benefit costs for hiring any personnel on the grant must now be included as part of the proposal budget.

Composite Benefit Rates and New Indirect Cost Rate

In April 2013, COR sent a letter to the Davis Division Chair expressing concern over the composite benefit rates proposal that was being discussed systemwide. According to UCORP, the administration was going to offer the chancellors on each campus two unfair options: (1) charge faculty summer salary a 0% rate but force the Chancellors to pay the difference out of campus funds, or (2) charge faculty summer salary a benefit rate of 33-36% (same as academic year). The rate of 33-36% is higher than the actual benefits accrued (because summer salary does not count in the retirement benefit calculation). COR agreed that the options are unfair and harmful to the research

mission of the campus. However, in late July the new composite benefit rates were distributed and recent discussions regarding UCPATH (the PPS replacement project) led to a renegotiation of faculty summer salaries. A combined rate has been established for postdoctoral employees and faculty summer salary which reflects a significant reduction from the previously announced rate.

In addition to the new composite benefit rates, the indirect cost rate was also increased to 54.5% for all new federal and non-federal research, instruction, and other sponsored projects effective immediately. Other rates are still being finalized, and the campus will operate under provisional forecasted F&A cost rates until the current F&A rate proposal is fully negotiated and finalized. The final rate agreement is expected to be in place in mid-to-late August 2013. However, some members of COR are concerned as these changes create a lot of work regarding re-budgeting, etc.

Respectfully submitted,

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Nicole Baumgarth
Sue Bodine
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Janet Foley
Ting Guo
David Hwang
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Marjorie Longo
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Sally McKee
Dan Ragland
Ed Taylor
Bella Merlin – Catherine Turner
Anne Usrey
Rosemary Cress, Academic Federation Representative
Harris Lewin, Vice Chancellor for Research (Ex-officio)
Kimberly Pulliam, Analyst