



OFFICE OF THE PROVOST AND EXECUTIVE VICE CHANCELLOR
ONE SHIELDS AVENUE
DAVIS, CA 95616
TEL: (530) 752-4964
FAX: (530) 752-2400
INTERNET: <http://provost.ucdavis.edu>

June 12, 2012

Dr. Kathy Olmsted
Professor of History
Chair, Committee on Research

RE: Committee on Research (COR) Grants Program

Dear Kathy,

Thank you for your very informative letter of May 29 reporting on the Committee on Research (COR) Grants Program. Beginning with your second sentence—"It has been a resounding success"—your letter made for thoroughly enjoyable reading! It is always wonderful to see a campus program work so well, and doubly so when such important goals are served.

Let me say here, before I share a few thoughts about your report, how much I appreciate the expertise and effort contributed by you and your committee in administering this program. I can appreciate the daunting task you faced in selecting recipients for the 24 large and 152 small grants during 2009–10, and I applaud the wisdom of your selections.

The COR Grants Program has, to borrow your word, resoundingly demonstrated both the immense usefulness of these awards to our faculty, and the program's key premise—namely, that strategic intramural investment in promising research projects pays off in big ways.

The current statistics you supply regarding the large grants are truly compelling: a 73 percent success rate for awardees securing subsequent external funding, and \$474,543 in COR awards producing \$10.5 million in outside grants. And happily, these numbers may climb even higher with further successes.

The results of the small grants are equally impressive. Indeed, "impressive" seems an understatement in some cases—for example, with respect to Professor Lynn Roller's testimonial: "With the aid of such grants, I have completed three books, more than forty articles, several book chapters and a large number of encyclopedia entries." I am deeply inspired to see how much can be achieved through cost-efficient grants, strategically awarded.

The COR Grants were designed to help our professors do their best work, to advance knowledge across the disciplines, and to benefit society in numerous ways. I join you and your committee, and the campus as a whole, in celebrating the fulfillment of these goals through the 2009–10 awards. As your report notes, awardees have made significant contributions in a wide variety of fields, and in many cases have performed highly impactful work addressing crucial global problems. The distinguished books you mention by Professors Mike Saler and Eric Rauchway are just two examples.

Supporting our professors' work, of course, is the primary objective of the program. But as provost, I am also mindful how the individual research successes I have been addressing benefit all of our faculty, as well as our university as a whole. As you point out, our awardees' successes "have immeasurably improved the university's research profile and overall reputation." As a result, they have increased our

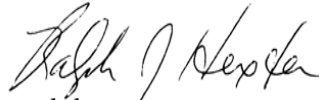
Dr. Kathryn Olmsted
June 12, 2012
Page 2

institution's ability to make positive impacts in all disciplines, in part by facilitating increased funding from external sources.

In the same vein, I want to acknowledge the program's positive effect on our professors' morale, and that of our entire community, at a time when all of us face formidable institutional challenges. The recipient testimonials you supply in your letter eloquently remind us that UC Davis can find ways, even in our current environment, to keep succeeding, keep moving forward.

To sum up, I could not be more pleased by your letter. I greatly appreciate all of your efforts on behalf of the COR Grants Program, and the care you have taken in reporting its accomplishments.

Sincerely,



Ralph J. Hexter
Provost and Executive Vice Chancellor

c: Chancellor Katehi
Vice Chancellor Lewin
Academic Senate Chair Bisson
Academic Senate Executive Director Anderson