

May 29, 2012

**RALPH HEXTER**

Provost and Executive Vice Chancellor

Dear Provost Hexter:

I write to report on the Committee on Research Grants program. It has been a resounding success. Both the small and large grant programs have helped UCD faculty to win outside grants, publish books and articles, perform creative work, present research at conferences, and get favorable publicity in the mainstream press.

The large grant program has served its intended purpose of helping faculty acquire the data they need to get larger, externally funded grants. In 2009-10, the committee awarded 24 new initiative grants (out of 66 applications) totaling \$474,543.00. We have received reports from 15, all of whom used the grant money to collect data that they used to apply for external grants. Eleven of these applications have already proved successful, with four still pending. This is a 73 percent success rate. These Academic Senate grants helped the researchers obtain more than \$10.5 million in outside grants thus far, with their commensurate indirect cost recovery.

The researchers won grants from many agencies and foundations, including the National Institutes of Health, the National Institutes of Mental Health, the U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services, the National Endowment for the Arts, the National Science Foundation, the California Energy Commission, the National Eye Institute, U.S. Fish and Wildlife, and various private foundations.

COR grant recipients studied a broad range of subjects: everything from biosynthesis in plants to childhood poverty, from skin bacteria on frogs to ritual performance traditions at a temple in South India. They researched influenza, coronary artery disease, the effects of social stress on the brain, renewable energy, air pollution near feed lots, and Bornean rain forests. They employed grad students and wrote books and published numerous scientific articles. They advanced the frontiers of knowledge while fulfilling the vital public service functions of the University of California.

All of the grant applicants thanked COR for their success in attaining sizeable grants. Nicole Baumgarth of the School of Medicine explained that she leveraged \$25,000 into a \$4 million grant. Anthropology Professor Andrew Marshall said that the Academic Senate program “substantially improved my project’s chances of receiving sustained, external grant support.” David Segal, professor of biochemistry and molecular medicine, concluded, “In summary, the funding I received from the Academic Senate helped me to successfully obtain extramural funding. I am very grateful for this program.”

In 2009-10, COR also awarded 152 small grants of \$2,000 each to professors in fields

that do not require expensive laboratory equipment. Though these professors do not need large sums, they carry on vital research that advance their fields and earn attention from their peers and the general public, often generating positive attention in the popular press and materially improving the global reputation of UC Davis. Many of the grant recipients funded their travel to foreign archives and wrote articles and books based on this research.

With the aid of the COR small grant program, UC Davis professors conducted research that helped them to win external grants from the National Institutes of Health, the National Science Foundation, the National Endowment for the Humanities, and the American Council of Learned Societies. The COR small grants funded fieldwork and archival research all over the world. They paid for archeological excavations, museum exhibitions, undergraduate and graduate research assistants, books, art supplies, documentary and ethnographic films, performances, computers, data sets, and gift cards for participants in experiments. They helped UC Davis faculty to make important professional connections, to get favorable publicity for the university, and to maintain the campus's reputation as a top-tier research university.

With the aid of the small grants, History Professor Mike Saler took research trips to archives in England, Massachusetts, and Wisconsin, which were critical to the writing of *As If: Modern Enchantment and the Literary Prehistory of Virtual Reality* (Oxford University Press). The book has so far received glowing reviews in the *Washington Post* and the *Wall Street Journal*, both of which praised it for the novel findings derived from its archival research. Eric Rauchway, also in the history department, used COR grant funds to research *The Great Depression and the New Deal: A Very Short Introduction* (Oxford University Press), which has been cited by National Public Radio as one of the three most important books for understanding the current economic crisis.

Here are a few exemplary testimonials to the importance of the small grants program:

Burkhard Schipper, Associate Professor of Economics

Small grants by the Academic Senate Committee on Research allowed me to initiate research projects that resulted in two three-year NSF grants, eight publications in international peer-reviewed journals, two publications in conference proceedings, and fourteen working papers. The small grants are absolutely crucial for developing preliminary results that enable us to apply for extramural grants.

Lynn Roller, Professor of Art History

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 have used the Faculty Research Grant funds to travel overseas for field research, to visit archives, make photographs, and pay the cost of acquiring photographs and publication rights for my research publications.

Tim McNeil, Associate Professor of Design

The \$2000 grant helped research and organize a statewide event called IGNITE: Museums as Catalysts for Sustainability. This event was the first of its kind in the museum field and was hugely successful at advancing environmental sustainability projects and community outreach.

Jeff Fort, Assistant Professor of French

[The grants'] relatively small scope for each recipient is belied by the enormous help they provide. I have been very grateful for these funds; it would have been much more difficult for me to progress as much as I have without them.

Alan Klima, Associate Professor of Anthropology

As a cultural anthropologist working on religion and politics in Thailand, it is absolutely essential that I conduct field research nearly every year, even while teaching full-time. The small grants pay for a portion of the cost it takes to do anthropological field research in the locations -- often remote from California -- that we work in.

Carolyn de la Pena, Professor of American Studies

Without a doubt the grants are why I've managed to produce four books (two co-authored) in that time--in turn producing a good amount of positive PR for UC Davis through public radio and mainstream media venues and making important contributions to the fields of the history of technology and food/consumer studies.

John T. Scott, Professor of Political Science

Although \$2000 grants may not seem to be a large amount of research support (particularly compared to our peer research universities), they have been integral to my ability to complete a series of projects over the years, including the ten journal articles I have published over this same time period, all which were supported in part by these research grants. In addition, these grants have helped support our graduate students by giving me funds to hire graduate students as research assistants.

Lynne Isbell, Professor of Anthropology

At least 25 of my peer-reviewed publications gratefully acknowledge the Faculty Research Grant program for support.

Ann Stevens, Professor of Economics

I have used the COR small grants to purchase computer equipment that allowed me to analyze confidential data from the Social Security Administration (which could not be used on a standard, internet connected computer). This work led to a larger grant from the National Science Foundation on the link between unemployment rates and mortality, which is now getting significant press attention, and has been submitted for publication.

Carlton Lawson, Professor of Law

I have used [the small grants] to conduct research in legal history at the Manuscript Division of the Library of Congress and at numerous courthouses and historical societies in Pennsylvania. For people like me who do work in the 18th century, it's very important

to be able to visit archives on the east coast. Without the support of the Small Grants in Aid of Research, several of my articles would have been almost impossible to write.

Caren Kaplan, Professor of Women and Gender Studies

The small research grant in aid is a meaningful windfall that supports all manner of intellectual inquiry and endeavor. It tells me that the research university where I work values my research.

The COR grants program has helped UCD faculty to research, write, publish, and win large external grants. They have immeasurably improved the university's research profile and overall reputation. Thank you for your generous support of the program.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kathy Olmsted", written over a horizontal line.

Kathy Olmsted  
Professor of History  
Chair, Committee on Research

Cc: Linda Katehi, Chancellor  
Harris Lewin, Vice Chancellor, Office of Research  
Linda Bisson, Chair, Davis Division of the Academic Senate  
Gina Anderson, Executive Director, Davis Division of the Academic Senate