

COMMITTEE ON RESEARCH
Berkeley Division
2006-2007
Annual Report

This report summarizes the activities and accomplishments of the Committee on Research (COR) for 2006-2007.

RESEARCH POLICY & ISSUES

COR was engaged in the discussions involving the campus submission to a request for proposals from British Petroleum (BP) to develop an Energy Biosciences Institute. Four Senate committee chairs, including the COR Chair, were involved in the contract negotiations between UCB and BP in an advisory role.

The COR Chair and Vice-Chair met with the VC-Research office to discuss issues of mutual concern including CPHS; and, grants programs administered through the Research office.

The Committee for the Protection of Human Subjects (CPHS) Chair met with the committee, and the committee discussed the activities of CPHS. COR, jointly with CPHS, conducted a survey, with Divisional Council endorsement, to solicit feedback from campus PIs regarding challenges they face in their dealings with CPHS and to generate suggestions to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of that committee for the benefit of campus researchers.

The Chair, Vice Chair, and Senate Chair met with the EVC&P to present COR's proposal to combine the travel and basic \$1,000 research enabling grant and to increase the basic minimum research support to \$2,000. The EVC&P agreed to a support increase of \$50K per year through 2010-11. This was insufficient to support merging the two programs. However, it will allow COR to maintain its current level of grant allocations over the next four years.

Commented on or considered the following proposals, programs or reports:

- Institutional Review Boards (IRBs) at UC: IRB operations and the researcher's experience
- Recommendations from the Joint Academic Senate and UCOP Workgroup in recycling multi-campus research units (MRU) funds.
- Policy to oversee human stem cell research at Berkeley. The California Institute for Regenerative Medicine (CIRM) requires that an institution conducting CIRM-funded stem cell research constitute a Stem Cell Research Oversight Committee (SCROC) to review and approve human stem cell research projects.
- Draft proposal on the relationships between (pharmaceutical) vendors and clinicians
- Regents' proposed RE-89 - adoption of policy restricting University acceptance of funding from the tobacco industry
- UC Faculty Scholarly Work Copyright Rights Policy

COR had representatives on the following committees:

- Business Resumption Coordinating Committee
- Disaster Preparedness Workgroup
- Campus Technology Committee
- Hellman Faculty Fund awards
- Research Compliance Advisory Committee

Grant policies

- Approved revisions in the Research Assistantship in the Humanities program: raise maximum amount to \$4,000 and change to annual cycle.
- COR eliminated the fall and spring deadlines for travel requests

COR RESEARCH GRANT ACTIVITY

<i>This summary includes both the spring and fall grant cycles</i>	FACULTY RESEARCH GRANT (FRG)	JUNIOR FACULTY RESEARCH GRANT (JFRG)	RESEARCH ASSISTANTSHIP IN THE HUMANITIES (RAH)	RESEARCH ENABLING GRANT (REG)	TOTAL
APPLICATIONS	131	67	49	784	1031
FUNDS REQUESTED	930,128	503,489	125,340	757,461	2,316,418
GRANTS AWARDED	104	65	46	*781	996
FUNDS AWARDED	443,430	424,535	120,000	*782,270	1,770,235
AVERAGE AWARD	4264	6531	2608	1,000	

**This number and amount includes “default” awards to FRG and JFRG applicants who did not receive a competitive grant under either the FRG or JFRG program.*

BRIDGING GRANTS (2006-08)

Applications	11
Funds Requested	244,780
Proposals Funded	4
Total Awarded	80,000

**includes 2 joint Townsend Center for Humanities/COR awards*

COR Travel Grant Activity

486 active and emeritus faculty utilized the travel grant program to attend and present original research at professional conferences, to collaborate with colleagues or to conduct research at specialized libraries on other campuses. About \$321,00 was awarded.

Impact of COR grants

Several of the faculty who received grants this year reported to the committee that their awards have been “invaluable” in establishing their research agendas, and several of the grants provided were leveraged by other funding institutions. Here are some examples excerpted from progress reports submitted to COR on faculty research and scholarly activities, or from other reports to COR:

Newly appointed Assistant Professor Thomas Griffiths (Psychology) received a \$6,000 JFRG to “Explore formal models of category learning.” His research over the year led to a presentation at the annual conference of the Cognitive Science Society, and will be included in a chapter in a book on probabilistic models of cognition. In addition, the Air Force Office of Scientific Research awarded him a two-year grant in the amount of \$239,998 to continue this research.

Eric Falci joined the English Department this year, and used his \$5,000 JFRG to spend the summer in Ireland gaining a “better sense of the contemporary Irish poetry scene,” utilize research facilities, and hard to find resource material for his project, “The Double Page: Reading Form in Contemporary Irish Poetry.” Gaining much useful information and insights from this fieldwork, has led Professor Falci to develop a new chapter for his manuscript. In particular, studying key literary journals at the National Library in Dublin was “crucial to the formation of this new chapter.”

Randi Engle, a junior faculty member in the School of Education, received a \$7,000 award to test some new hypotheses about how teachers can “frame learning activities to promote transfer-of learning.” Professor Engle notes that the COR grant, “...allowed me to pilot a whole host of tutoring procedures and both instructional and assessment materials to be able to test a whole new set of hypotheses that I could not have done without the funding to provide incentives to high school student participants, and funds to pay undergraduate research assistants for some of their time during the summer.” She has used the results of her pilot project to submit a proposal for an NSF CAREER Grant, requesting \$855,516/5 years.

Professor Claire Kremen (ESPM) received her first award from COR in 2005-06 (\$5,500). The committee was favorably disposed to her research to grant her another \$10,000 in 2006-07 to research the role that wild bees play in pollinating almonds in California, which supplies half of the world’s almond crop. In September 2007, she was awarded a MacArthur “genius” fellowship.

MCB Assistant Professor Michael Rape, who joined the faculty in 2006-07, was awarded a \$5,000 Junior Faculty grant for the 2007-08 academic year. In September 2007, the NIH recognized his novel research into examining enzymes that may be likely to respond to anti-cancer drug treatment by awarding him \$1.5 million, 5 year, "New Innovator Award." Earlier this year, he was named a PEW Scholar in the Biomedical Sciences which carries a \$240,000 award over four years.

In addition, the Division of Arts and Humanities inaugurated a program of support for newly tenured associate professors which leverages the \$1,000 COR Research Enabling Grants with an additional \$4,000 grant for research support provided by the Mellon Foundation. Part of what the Mellon Foundation found attractive about Berkeley's grant proposal was the fact that the Foundation would be partnering with the campus in supporting our associate professors. The "filter" that the COR application process provides was an additional part of the appeal of the proposal.