**BERKELEY DIVISION OF THE ACADEMIC SENATE**

**COMMITTEE ON RESEARCH**

**ANNUAL REPORT**

**2015-16**

This report summarizes the activities of the Committee on Research (COR) for 2015-16.

This year, the committee continued to shift its focus to its role of advising the Division, and Vice Chancellor for Research (VCR) on issues relating to research policy.

***RESEARCH AND SCHOLARSHIP GRANTS***

* Under the agreement reached with the Executive Vice Chancellor & Provost (EVCP), in 2014, COR received its second year allocation of $50,000 to offer emeritus faculty a basic level of research and conference travel support. Emeritus faculty who have a funded research program, proceeds from an endowed chair exceeding $10,000, or other sources of funds to support research were ineligible to apply for a grant. The committee instituted the restriction to direct its limited funding to those emeriti who have little or no support otherwise. This year 82 emeriti received $600 awards. Next year will be the 3rd and last year of this commitment from the administration unless it is extended beyond June 30, 2017.
* An assistant professor in the Molecular and Cell Biology department was awarded a $20,000 grant from the Mary Elisabeth Rennie Endowment for Epilepsy and Epilepsy-related research. This endowment will no longer be under COR control after this academic year. It will be administered through the VC Research Office or under the Biological Sciences Dean.

**ORGANIZED RESEARCH UNITS (ORUS)**

* **GOVERNANCE REPORT**

Senate leadership asked the committee to produce a study on ORU governance. Presently, most ORUs report to the VC-Research. This includes 37 research units, 7 museums, and 7 field stations. The issue of reporting lines raised concerns among some ORU directors because moving oversight of the ORUs to the Deans was being considered among senior level administrators. To conduct its study, COR sent a 5 question survey to 47 directors and received 25 responses (53%). In addition, to gain their perspectives on the issue, COR met with (then) EVCP Claude Steele; L&S and Division of Social Sciences Dean Carla Hesse; L&S Division of Mathematical Physical Sciences Dean Frances Hellman; and Museum of Paleontology Director Charles Marshall.

The committee concluded that the existing ORU governance structure is vigorous and achieves the important goal of promoting interdisciplinary research. Further, the ORUs are likely to continue to have a key role in that effort in the coming years. Given scare resources, and the necessity to make strategic decisions within these constraints, COR recommended that the ORU portfolio be reviewed in its entirety to evaluate these units continuing relevance as Berkeley’s research agenda evolves and positions itself to tackle societal and global challenges and opportunities. Finally, the committee agreed that the Office of the Vice Chancellor for Research is in the best position to work with ORU directors to develop a comprehensive fundraising plan.

The report on ORU governance was endorsed by the Divisional Council at its April 25, 2016 meeting. It will be forwarded to the VC-Research who plans to initiate a broad review of all ORUs in the coming year; COR will be involved in that undertaking.

* **ORU REVIEWS**

COR members participated on the External Review Committees of the four ORU reviews conducted this year:

Beth Piatote – Institute of International Relations

Johan Walden – Archeology Research Facility

Michael Hutchings – Institute for Transportation Studies

Irina Conboy – Institute for Human Development

The COR liaison’s role is to provide guidance to the ERC about Berkeley, and the context in which the ORU operates; to act as the committee’s (and, by extension, the Senate) representative on the review focusing, particularly, on the unit’s research mission, issues, activities, future plans, resources, and challenges.

**OTHER ACTIVITIES**

* COR was represented on the Hellman Fellows Fund committee by Professor Joan Walker and Professor Michael Hutchings was co-chair of the newly formed Post-Doctoral Housing ad hoc committee
* Commented on Research Space Allocation Draft Guidelines at the request of the VP Strategic Academic and Facilities Planning.
* COR revised its by-law to reflect the fact that the committee no longer awards research grants to faculty. This eliminates the necessity for COR membership be set to at least 15 members. As revised, the Vice Chair position is eliminated. Two new responsibilities, providing small grants to emeriti for basic research support, and that a COR member will participate on ORU reviews, were added to its duties. The new by-law will go into effect in the next academic year.
* Guests: AVC University Development and Alumni Relations Irene Kim and Executive Director Jeff Jackanicz, Corporate and Foundation Relations & Leadership Gifts and VC-Research Paul Alivisatos.

**Members of the 2015-16 Committee on Research**

Stuart Bale, Chair

Kevin Quinn, Vice Chair

Lisa Barcellos

Peter Bartlett

Irina Conboy

Mia Fuller

Dorothy Hale (spring)

Michael Hutchings

Edgar Knobloch

Mariska Kriek

Paolo Mancosu

Minoo Moallem

Celine Pallud

Beth Piatote (fall)

Steve Tadelis

Johan Walden

Joan Walker