

**UNIVERSITY COMMITTEE ON RESEARCH POLICY (UCORP)
ANNUAL REPORT 2004-05**

TO THE ASSEMBLY OF THE ACADEMIC SENATE:

As specified in Senate Bylaw 200, the University Committee on Research Policy (UCORP) is responsible for fostering research, for formulating, coordinating, and revising general research policies and procedures, and for advising the President on research. UCORP held seven meetings during the 2004-05 academic year, including one teleconference meeting. Highlights of the Committee's activities are noted in this report.

University-wide Research Programs

15 Year Reviews of Multi-campus Research Units (MRUs)

In accordance with the Universitywide Review Processes for Academic Programs, Academic Units, and Research Units (the "Compendium"), UCORP participated in the Academic Senate's evaluation of the reports of the 15-Year Reviews of four Multicampus Research Units (MRUs): California Sea Grant (CSG); CalSpace; the Institute for Geophysics and Planetary Physics (IGPP), and the Institute for Transportation Studies (ITS). UCORP supported continuation of CSG, IGPP, and ITS and made a number of recommendations focusing on funding and enhancing the function of those programs as universitywide entities. UCORP considered the CalSpace review in the context of the committee's earlier recommendation for its disestablishment and in light of a proposal from the Office of Research to continue CalSpace in name and function, but revamp it administratively. UCORP felt it was unclear why CalSpace should not be disestablished altogether, or why a "new" CalSpace should be constrained to the current model, and encouraged the Office of Research to take a complete departure from the CalSpace model that would generate a new vision for the program, a truer multi-campus identity.

Other MRU Issues:

UCORP responded to an emergent situation involving a drastic funding cut to the Institute on Global Conflict and Cooperation (IGCC), which was made without Senate consultation and raised questions about funding oversight for research units associated with the national laboratories. UCORP recommended that funding be restored and that the Laboratory Management Office be made aware of the Senate's role in established review processes for MRUs. UCORP also continued its exchange with the Office of Research about the Senate's formal recommendations on restructuring the MRU review process. UCORP co-signed with the University Committee on Planning and Budget (UCPB) a *Statement on the Re-circulation of MRU Funds* that urged the formation of a joint Senate/administrative task force to expedite the implementation of a new review process that would recycle UCOP funds to support new research initiatives.

California Institutes for Science and Innovation (Cal ISIs)

UCORP considered a proposed structure for regularized review of the Cal ISIs. The committee recommended specific changes to the draft structure, including involvement of the Senate at an earlier stage in the review process, clear indication of review cycle start and frequency, and Senate input on the make up of the review panel. The committee will

continue to be actively engaged with this issue next year and looks forward to participating in the development of Cal ISI review guidelines and a revised review process proposal in the near future. UCORP will also continue to monitor the matter of permanent funding for operating costs for the Institutes.

Research Funding Sources

Last year, UCORP's Resolution on Restrictions on Research Funding Sources was submitted to and endorsed by the Academic Council, as part of the committee's report *Problematic Restrictive Clauses in Research Awards*. The Resolution maintains that groups within the University do not have the authority to institute a ban on research funding based on the source of funding. UCORP participated in the general Senate review of the Resolution that was conducted this year, discussing the matter at two of its meetings and in a teleconference devoted mainly to this topic. After reviewing: 1) the process followed by the committee last year in developing the resolution; 2) comments of the faculty who had voiced opposition to the resolution; and 3) relevant University policy, UCORP maintained its support of the Resolution as written. The Senate's general review involved extensive discussion of the issues and the document on the part of campus Committees on Research and other senate bodies and campus groups. The review resulted in full Senate approval of an amended version of the Resolution that is wholly consistent with the original document but adds procedural clarifications, and which UCORP endorsed.

Corporate Influence on Research

The Academic Council forwarded to UCORP a request from the University Committee on Academic Freedom to inquire into possible pernicious influence of corporate funding on research at UC. UCORP addressed this topic at a majority of its meetings, trying to determine the need for such a study and considering possible approaches to mounting an inquiry. The UCORP and UCAF chairs consulted with one another throughout the year, and UCORP Chair Neiman met with UCAF via teleconference to discuss initial steps for a joint UCORP/UCAF effort. UCORP concluded that the issue of corporate influence on research has been adequately addressed in the committee's 2004 report *Problematic Restrictive Clauses in Research Awards* and it is not clear that an additional study is needed; however, the committee will continue discussion of this topic with UCAF and knowledgeable outside faculty in the coming year.

Laboratory Management Issues

The committee received regular updates on the status of the management contracts and the bidding process activities from Professor Janis Ingham, past Chair of UCORP and member of ACSCONL. UCORP deliberated and discussed the current status of UC bidding for management of LANL and LLNL. UCORP drafted a memo to Academic Council Chair Blumenthal, with a request that it be forwarded to ACSCONL, expressing the committee's concern that the conditions governing UC's decision of whether or not to bid seemed to be expanding beyond earlier boundaries.

Consultation with UCOP

Consultants from the Office of Research and the Office of Research Administration regularly updated UCORP members on federal and state legislative activities and other policy issues related to research, including:

- Export Control Regulation
- Corporate funding agreements, including access to and publication of clinical trials data
- The University Contracts and Grants Manual
- Data security issues
- The California Stem Cell Initiative - related proposed legislation and legal concerns with regard to the Independent Citizen's Oversight Committee for the Institute for Regenerative Medicine
- NIH policy changes
- State and federal legislative initiatives
- Open access publication of research data

Other Reports and Recommendations

The committee also wrote opinions on the following proposals and reports:

- UCAP's Proposed Revisions to the Step VI Criteria
- UCAAD's Report on Graduate/Professional School Admissions and Diversity
- Proposed Policy on Human Subject Injury Costs and Implementation Guidelines
- Systemwide Strategic Directions for Libraries and Scholarly Information at the University of California
- Proposed amendment to Senate Bylaw 128
- Proposed amendment to Senate Regulation 600. B
- Proposed revision of the UC Copyright Policy relating to the recording of course materials

UCORP Representation

The Chair, Vice Chair, or a committee liaison represented UCORP on the following systemwide bodies during the year: Academic Council, Academic Council Subcommittee on the National Laboratories, Council on Research, Industry-University Cooperative Research Program Steering Committee, and the Technology Transfer Advisory Committee.

Next Year

Looking forward to next year, UCORP will be responding to two charges from the Academic Council: 1) to develop a report on the operations of campus Institutional Review Boards and; and 2) to review the recommendations of UCOP's task force that is examining university guidelines on federally earmarked research funds. In addition, the committee plans to look at the role of research infrastructure as it relates to recruitment and retention of faculty, and issues related to graduate student recruitment, and to continue its discussion concert with UCAF of corporate influence on research.

Acknowledgments

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Respectfully submitted:

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