Faculty Council on Research
2007-2008 Annual Report
Cathryn Booth-LaForce, Chair

The Faculty Council on Research (FCR) is one of twelve advisory bodies to the Faculty Senate and is responsible to the Senate Executive Committee (University Handbook Vol. 2, Part 4, Chapter 42, Sec. 42-31). The FCR serves as the deliberative and advisory body for all matters of University policy relating to research and is the primary forum for faculty-administrative interaction in determining that policy (University Handbook Vol. 2, Part 4, Chapter 42, Secs. 42-31 and 42-37). One of our weightier responsibilities deals with Classified, Proprietary and Restricted (CPR) Research (University Handbook Vol. 4, Part II: University Research, Chapter 1: Classified and Proprietary Research). The FCR does not have general oversight responsibility for University policy on the protection of human subjects, which is the responsibility of the Research Advisory Board (University Handbook Vol. 4, Part 2, Chapter 2, Sec. 7).

The President’s designated representative to FCR is Mary Lidstrom, Vice Provost for Research. FCR enjoyed a good working relationship with Mary, who attended most of our meetings (and David Eaton, Associate Vice Provost for Research, substituted for her on a few occasions when she could not attend). I attended most meetings of the Research Advisory Board as well. FCR representatives participated on the Human Subjects Policy Board, the President’s Advisory Committee on Enterprise Risk Management, the Annual Faculty Lecture Selection Committee, the Intellectual Property Management Advisory Committee, and the Effort Reporting Compliance Advisory Team. Co-Chair Mark Haselkorn substituted for me when I was unavailable.

FCR met 8 times during 2007-2008 academic year. The following is a summary of our activities for the year:

**Major accomplishments:**

**Classified, Proprietary, and Restricted (CPR) Applications:** One of the major tasks of FCR is to review and approve (or disapprove) classified, proprietary, and restricted applications for grants and contracts. This year, the FCR CPR subcommittee, chaired by Daniel Vogt and Gerald Miller (while Daniel was on leave), reviewed five applications; based on their recommendations, all five were approved. Of particular note is that the 10-year NAVSEA (Navy) omnibus classified contract was approved. Additionally, a CPR Conflict of Interest policy was developed and approved by FCR.

**Senate Interdisciplinary Research Committee (SIRC):** The SIRC proposed Class C legislation that was adopted at the March 13th Faculty Senate Meeting. The legislation concerned fostering multi-unit interdisciplinary research, and is the first in a series of proposals that will be forthcoming. The resolution is that “the following shall be a formal consideration in the evaluation of all academic administrators (e.g., Deans, Department Chairs): compelling evidence of initiating, fostering, and supporting interdisciplinary activities involving their unit with other units across the university.
Royalty Research Fund (RRF): Concerns were raised within the Council about RRF policies, review procedures, and funding restrictions. Following significant discussion and collaboration with Mary Lidstrom, she charged FCR with participating in a comprehensive review of the RRF via an ad hoc committee including FCR members and others across campus. This review, to occur during the remaining months of 2008, will include review of mission and goals, funding rules, and review processes. The ad hoc committee will report to FCR, which will make final recommendations and forward them to the Research Advisory Board and, if appropriate, to the Board of Deans and Faculty Senate.

Funding for the Office of Sponsored Programs (OSP) and Grant and Contract Accounting (GCA): The Council wrote a letter to Provost Phyllis Wise requesting that she consider allocating a significant increase in funding for these units. This request arose from the Council’s consideration of data comparing large increases in grant applications and awards in the past 15 years, with a nearly flat amount of staff FTE in these units over the same period; as well as historical and periodic updates from OSP and GCA to FCR about workload. Lack of funding for increased staffing has resulted in a research infrastructure that is unable to respond adequately to the research needs of faculty. The Council’s concerns were acknowledged and appreciated by the Provost.

Updates and Input

We received updates, and provided input about:

- SAGE project support of electronic routing to Grants.gov.
- Human Subjects Division progress, improvements, and accreditation efforts
- FEC Compliance
- Graduate student compensation cap
- F&A rate negotiation
- State initiative about research
- Grant & Contract Accounting/Office of Sponsored Programs work load and FTE
- NIH public access mandate—publications
- Initiating clinical studies—faculty burden
- Royalty Research Fund policies and procedures
- Inclusion of separation leave in the benefit load rate
- Open access publishing
- U.S. House and Senate legislative activities related to research.
- Federal Demonstration Partnership.