Office of Research –

Bruce Morgan mentioned 2 workshops geared towards Principal Investigators – January 19 and January 20.

NIH has interim guidance on the salary cap. NIH will be funding awards under 2006 levels. Salary cap will be at $ 186,600 rate (emphasis on rate).

NIH will fund new awards but there will be no inflation increases.

Office of Naval Research (ONR) now has a requirement for certification to log on to their websites (awardweb, adminweb and pay web). This will affect OR and Accounting.

Cost Sharing - Committed vs Non-Committed (Voluntary)

Mandatory Cost Sharing is that which the agency requires (.e.g., NSF requires a 1/3 equipment cost sharing and specifies this in their guidelines).
Committed Cost Sharing is that which the PI specified in his proposal.
Voluntary Uncommitted Cost Sharing (VUCS) is cost sharing that occurs during the performance of a project where such cost sharing was not committed in the proposal. VUCS relates to cost sharing that is associated with effort devoted to a project where such effort is compensated from an eligible funding source other than the award. For example, additional time spent on the project that was not specified in the proposal (i.e. graduate student is paid 20% from the project but is spending 50% time on the project).

Cost sharing commitments contained in the technical portion of the proposal have been upheld in court as a legal obligation that must be fulfilled by the party that made the commitment. OR analysts are NOT checking the technical portion for 'inadvertent' commitments.

A discussion arose about claiming Co-PI as working on the project but not listing a percentage or benefit amount.

There is no campus Cost Sharing policy. If we had one, we would be able to provide flexibility and guidance per A110. A cost sharing policy will be an important part of UCR's efforts to implement an effort reporting system that is being worked on by the UC system. The campus will also need to develop a companion cost sharing tracking system. OR can then quantify the Cost Sharing at the beginning of the award. Accounting could send the Cost Sharing report during the reporting cycle. If Cost Sharing is VUCS then no report would be sent by Accounting.

Campus Approval Form should indicate the PI's and Co-PI's percent effort throughout the year on the grant, this is not related to how much s/he will be paid from the grant, nor is it related to cost sharing.

Next User's group meeting is February 13.