

## **Minutes of the Research and Scholarship Committee:**

January 18, 2013

Present: Wynne Chin, Frederick Lopez, Pradeep Sharma, Haluk Ogmen, Michael Harold, Michael Zvolensky, Jack Fletcher, Robert Palmer, Gemunu Gunaratne, Randall Lee, Stuart Dryer, Alan Burns, Vincent Tam, Patrick Bordnick for Luis Torres, Allan Jacobson, Stuart Long, Dmitri Litvinov; ex officio members: Roth Bose, Anne Sherman, Mark Clarke, Selesta Hodge, Kirstin Rochford, Christie Peters, Brooke Gowl, Maribel Salazar, and Cris Milligan.

Absent: Matt Johnson, Karl Titz, Alessandro Carrera, George Zouridakis, and Abdelhak Bensaoula.

The meeting was called to order by the Chair at 1:35 p.m.

Chair Report: Dr. Lee welcomed everyone to the first meeting of the RSC for calendar year 2013.

Review and approval of minutes from 12/14/2012 meeting: Dr. Lee asked for any changes or additions. There were none and so, Dr. Lee asked for a motion to approve the minutes. Dr. Palmer made the motion, Dr. Gunaratne seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Report by VP/VC Bose: Dr. Bose addressed the following items:

- Task Force on IDC Distribution will be meeting soon. Drs. Tam and Fletcher are the RSC representatives. Others on this task force include Dean Earl Smith (Optometry), and Dean Patricia Oliver (Architecture), Dr. Ramanan Krishnamoorti (Chair of Engineering), Dr. Allan Jacobson (Director of TCSUH), Craig Ness, (Academic Affairs), Dr. Carl Carlucci (Administration & Finance and Chair the task force), Dr. Mark Clarke (DOR), and Dr. Dmitri Litvinov (Faculty Senate). Dr. Bose is expecting a report at the end of the Spring 2013 semester.
- Federal Funding: There are still many unknowns. Funding agencies will most likely reduce funding to grantees. What does this mean for graduate students and postdoctoral fellows? Dr. Bose indicated that he is prepared to help assist with funding to carry them for the entire year if a commitment has been made to them.
- State Auditors Report (OMB A-133): We received the draft report last week with no citations, but with a few warnings. One warning was that expenses were being transferred without OCG approval. Decentralization over the years has led us to that point, where it appears that OCG has only limited control. General Accounting and Research Accounting will no longer approve these transfers. Institutional controls will be put into place to prevent unauthorized transfers. There were a few other minor warnings, and we are developing a response to these items.

Dr. Lee commended DOR for all of the hard work that it took to get to this satisfactory ending. Dr. Bose thanked all of his staff, but especially Beverly Rymer, Selesta Hodge, Nancy Ward, and Cris Milligan.

- Breakfast with Researchers: This event has been very successful. Last week's breakfast indicated that all are on board with the research mission of the University. One big issue remains the lack of research space. Dr. Bose is working with Dr. Carlucci to see if we can issue more bonds. He is also working with Advancement on raising funds. The Chancellor and the Interim Provost are fully aware of this need.
- Various topics: Dr. Bose continues to support the compliance infrastructure, increasing the number of NAS members, increasing funding by reaching out to national and international foundations to provide additional project funding as the federal government's support wanes. He also indicated that funding opportunities with the EU should be explored. Dr. Tam is submitting a proposal soon to them. Dr. Bose is also emphasizing HSI funding on a federal level. He has formed a group of advisors to assist him with this effort and is working with NASA to get funding for Science and Engineering efforts.
- Animal Care: Dr. Bose indicated that in a recent article that will be sent to the RSC members, UH's animal care facility was highlighted as a very good facility. Nevertheless, we still need to compare our per-diem rates with those of other universities.

## **Subcommittee Reports**

### Resources and Core Facilities: Tam, Lee, Harold, Fletcher, Burns

- Dr. Tam reported that the Core Facilities subcommittee is sorting out the detailed information for the PIs who have already submitted a proposal. The PIs will send responses by February 4 and then they will pursue external reviews.
- Major Instrumentation/Core Facility Task Force: Clarke, Dryer, Lee, Litvinov, Milligan, Porter, Zouridakis  
Dr. Litvinov was appointed Chair of this subcommittee. Cris Milligan provided a list of service centers. Please review and provide any corrections or additions to the task force. Dr. Litvinov asked that additional information be added to this list and placed on the DOR website: List of equipment/services, including a brief description of instrument model, age, and capabilities. Dr. Bose discussed the concept of "program income". Anne will send the federal regulations to the RSC members.
- IDC Distribution Task Force: Dr. Lee asked that Drs. Fletcher and Tam report back to the RSC after the meetings begin.

Centers and Institutes: Fletcher, Jacobson, Ogmen, Zouridakis, Palmer, Milligan, and Salazar. Dr. Fletcher, subcommittee chair, reported that the comments are being integrated into one document, which he will re-circulate. Classification will be completed and sent out for comments.

Research Excellence Awards: Dryer, Long, Lopez, Ogmen, Chin and Zouridakis. Applications are due 2/1/2013, and the subcommittee will begin its work at that time.

GEAR Program: Subcommittee members are: Harold, Burns, Gunaratne, Lopez, Sharma, and Zouridakis. Anne Sherman handed out the email that went to the Deans and providing instructions. NSM and Engineering will form committees to rank their proposals. Criteria should be reported by the colleges. Dr. Lee asked for the subcommittee to review and possibly modify the selection criteria. Dr. Bose indicated that the program is designed to increase our investment in research and suggested a model that would require the projects to be more multi-disciplinary in nature versus single PI grants, since this is often what federal sponsors wish to see.

New Faculty/Small Grants Program: Bensaoula, Carrera, Ogmen, Titz, and Torres. None of the subcommittee members were in attendance at this meeting. Dr. Sharma suggested that the subcommittee meet to possibly change the guidelines of the New Faculty Awards program.

Update RSC Bylaws: Anne Sherman reported that she, Dr. Torres, and Dr. Zouridakis had worked on the bylaws and would meet again to finalize and bring to the RSC at the February meeting.

Conflict of Interest and Compliance: Dr. Gunaratne indicated that he had not attended a meeting yet.

Intellectual Property Committee: Dr. Dryer reported that there was just general reporting of IP at the last meeting and nothing significant to report.

### **Old Business:**

Tuition Waiver Policy: Dr. Bose gave an update saying that if PIs want to put tuition on their proposals, it is permissible; otherwise, there is no requirement to do so.

Book Subvention: Dr. Clarke reported that he has sent the framework to his faculty and received a few comments regarding the timing of the awards. Anne Sherman reported that with the new InfoEd, we will be able to submit all internally funded proposals via electronic submission.

## **New Business:**

Human Subjects Approval: Maria Gonzales from CLASS indicated that some of their professors have questions about the CPHS submission requirements for social science research, especially regarding oral histories. They would like to see a less elaborate process. Kirstin understands that oral histories are unique and explained that although the research is not biomedical/clinical in nature, current regulations require that the same general review criteria be utilized by IRBs for all research. Kirstin agreed to meet with Dr. Gonzales and her faculty to provide more guidance, and also indicated that upcoming draft regulations appear to address the differences in social science research much better than existing ones. The online IRB submission system currently being put in place by DOR will also have a “smart” process that will allow social science research to bypass biomedical research-type questions within the application.

Vacation and Sick Leave Policy: There needs to be a policy or a different process so that when a student leaves, the current PI he is working for does not have to pay for all of the vacation accumulated by that student after working for others. Dr. Lee asked for volunteers to work with Dr. Carlucci on this issue. Jack Fletcher and Randy Lee volunteered. Anne will get UT Austin’s policy for comparison.

Library Participation on the RSC: Dr. Litvinov is the new Chair of the Faculty Governance Committee. One question that has developed: Should the Library have participation on the RSC? The Library is represented on the Faculty Senate and there is belief that there are library representatives that are qualified to receive a grant. There was a motion made by Dr. Palmer and seconded by Dr. Litvinov. The motion carried.

Recognition of the outgoing Faculty Senate President: Dr. Bose recognized Dr. Litvinov as the outgoing Faculty Senate President and thanked him for all of his work as the President. The RSC applauded Dr. Bose’s recognition.

There was a motion to adjourn the meeting by Dr. Jacobson and seconded by Dr. Clarke. The meeting adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

**The next meeting will be on Friday, February 15, 2013, same location from 1:30-3:00 p.m.**