

Minutes of the Research and Scholarship Committee

April 19, 2013

Present: Frederick Lopez, Haluk Ogmen, Michael Harold, Michael Zvolensky, Alessandro Carrera, Jack Fletcher, Robert Palmer, Stuart Dryer, Alan Burns, Vincent Tam, Luis Torres, George Zouridakis, Abdelhak Bensaoula, Alan Jacobson, and Dmitri Litvinov; ex officio members: Roth Bose, Anne Sherman, Mark Clarke, Selesta Hodge, Brooke Gowl, Maribel Salazar, Ashley Merwin, Christie Peters, Patrick Bordnick, and Cris Milligan.

Absent: Gregory Marinic, Wynne Chin, Pradeep Sharma, Karl Titz, Gemunu Gunaratne, Randy Lee, and Stuart Long.

The Vice-Chair called the meeting to order at 1:35 p.m.

Chair Report: Dr. Harold, Vice Chair, welcomed everyone.

Review and approval of minutes from 3/22/2013 meeting: Dr. Harold asked for any changes or additions. Anne Sherman highlighted two amendments and Dr. Harold asked for a motion to approve the minutes, as amended. Dr. Palmer made the motion to accept the minutes, and Dr. Fletcher seconded the motion. The minutes were approved.

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

- DOR Budget Request. Special request for funding to set up tuition waiver reserve for graduate students supported on sponsored research projects. Dr. Bose encourages PIs to ask sponsors for graduate student tuition, but we need funds in case the sponsor does not pay for tuition. This is a very important item for Dr. Bose.
- Other large projects for the budget are to consolidate bond payments for the ERP and the new Health Sciences building.
- Monday, April 29, 2013, 10:00 a.m. in the Rockwell Pavilion, M.D. Anderson Library, Dr. Alan Price will present on *Public Research Misconduct Cases in Texas: What We Can Learn from Them and How to Avoid Such a Case in your Lab*. Dr. Price is the former Associate Director for Investigative Oversight of the DHHS Office of Research Integrity and one of the world's leading experts in investigating allegations of scientific misconduct. Dr. Bose urges all to attend and to encourage your graduate students to attend.
- Dr. Bose also indicated that he is working on a NASA/JSC demonstration project, and he will provide additional details as this moves along.

Subcommittee Reports

Resources and Core Facilities: Tam, Harold, Fletcher, Burns. Dr. Bose met with this subcommittee and emphasized the importance of making sure that the subcommittee works together with the DOR to coordinate efforts.

Centers and Institutes: Fletcher, Jacobson, Ogmen, Zouridakis, Palmer, Milligan, and Salazar. Dr. Fletcher, subcommittee chair, reported that the subcommittee is working on revamping TLC2. There were recommendations from the external advisory committee, established by the VPR, which will be developed.

There is a recommended name change to UH Center for Advanced Computing and Data Systems. In discussion for the name change, it was noted that the proposed change seems reasonable. Dr. Fletcher made a motion to change the name, Dr. Palmer seconded and the motion was approved.

Dr. Bose has received the Centers and Institutes subcommittee's recommended list of those to persist and those to close. Dr. Bose indicated that he accepts the subcommittee's recommendations and will move forward to create an action plan.

The application for the creation of the Center for Nuclear Receptors and Cell Signaling (CNRCS) was incomplete, and a request to provide additional information has been sent. The application appears to be departmental in nature, but will be reviewed after the additional information is received.

Dr. Harold thanked Dr. Fletcher and the subcommittee for all of their work on these issues, and Dr. Fletcher acknowledged.

Consortium Policy. This policy is in process and a copy will be provided to the members so that it can be finalized at the May Retreat. Dr. Harold asked that each of the members look at it once more before May.

Research Excellence Awards: Dryer, Long, Lopez, Sharma, Chin, and Zouridakis. Tasks have been completed and winners will be given a trophy and an \$8,000 award at the faculty awards ceremony on April 24, 2013.

GEAR Program: Litvinov, Burns, Gunaratne, Lopez, Ogmen, and Zouridakis. The subcommittee met on 4/16/2013 and made 9 selections. The list is attached to these minutes. Dr. Bose indicated his acceptance of this list and asked Anne Sherman to notify the winners and establish the cost centers.

New Faculty/Small Grants Program: Bensaoula, Carrera, Ogmen, Titz, and Torres. The subcommittee met and has developed new guidelines for the New Faculty Research Program. These will be distributed to the RSC so that they can be finalized at the May Retreat.

Update RSC Bylaws: The subcommittee completed its work, and Dr. Harold announced that he and Dr. Lee were going to one more review and finalize them so that they can be voted on at the May Retreat.

IDC Distribution Task Force: March 29, 2013, a meeting was held. The task force is currently looking at the data that has been collected from other Tier-One universities. The next task will be to set priorities on the expenditures of the IDC collected, so that we can provide a high rate of return. There has been discussion on incentivizing PIs; however, this is a complicated task because each college and department is providing this differently. Dr. Bordnick cautioned that we need to make sure that the infrastructure is a priority.

Dr. Bose offered that if colleges will bring in more IDC at a level over the current projections, he would give 75% back to the college.

Conflict of Interest and Compliance: No report, business as usual.

Intellectual Property Committee: Dr. Clarke reported two IP items: 1) Recently, there was an award ceremony for inventors who have received patents over the past 2 years. This ceremony will occur annually, and he thanked all who participated. It is important that the University recognize these achievements; and 2) he will send out a call for proposals for the UH Technology Gap Fund. This will provide funding to commercialize technology. The IP Committee is currently establishing guidelines. Provisional applications will not be eligible. It will be a six-month grant with milestones and deliverables. Matching from industry is encouraged.

Old Business:

Sequestration: Nothing to add at this point.

Tuition Waiver Policy: This has been added to the DOR website, and there have been questions raised. Dr. Bose has requested some funding to cover this for the coming year and will decide how this will be implemented.

Human Subjects: No update.

Book Subvention: Dr. Clarke reported a tentative process has been established. This process requires that the funding be announced 4 times per year to all colleges. There will be a small committee in CLASS who will review requests and make recommendations for funding. Annually, CLASS will provide the RSC with a report on the awards. The budget for this program is \$50,000.

Expectations of Scholarship and Extramural Funding for New Hires: This topic will be addressed next year.

Vacation and Sick Leave Policy for personnel supported by grants: This issue is being reviewed by Dr. Carlucci.

New Business:

Balance between strict safety regulations and ability to conduct research: This topic will be addressed next year.

Request from Dana Rooks, Dean of the Library: Dr. Rooks has requested that her librarians be automatically allowed to submit proposals for external funding through DOR. Dr. Harold asked all to review her attached request and be prepared to vote on it at the May retreat.

Agenda Items for RSC Annual Retreat: Dr. Harold reminded everyone to submit to Dr. Lee by April 30. There was some discussion about changing the date of the May retreat from May 10. Anne Sherman will poll the members to see which date is preferred.

There was a motion to adjourn the meeting by Dr. Jacobson, which was seconded by Dr. Torres. The meeting adjourned at 2:55 p.m.

The next meeting will be on Friday, May 10, 2013, Hilton Hotel, Flamingo Room from 12:00 noon to 5:00 p.m.