

## Minutes of the Research and Scholarship Committee

May 10, 2013, RETREAT

Present: Wynne Chin, Frederick Lopez, Michael Harold, Karl Titz, Michael Zvolensky, Alessandro Carrera, Jack Fletcher, Gemunu Gunaratne, Randy Lee, Stuart Dryer, Alan Burns, Vincent Tam, Alan Jacobson, Stuart Long and Dmitri Litvinov; ex officio members: Roth Bose, Anne Sherman, Selestia Hodge, Brooke Gowl, Maribel Salazar, Ashley Merwin, Kirsten Rochford, Christie Peters, and Cris Milligan.

Absent: Gregory Marinic, Pradeep Sharma, Haluk Ogmen, Robert Palmer, Luis Torres, George Zouridakis, and Abdelhak Bensaoula.

The Chair called the meeting to order at 12:00 noon and welcomed everyone despite the inclement weather.

Review and approval of minutes from 3/22/2013 meeting: Dr. Lee asked for any changes or additions. There were no corrections, and Dr. Gunaratne made the motion to accept the minutes, and Dr. Titz seconded the motion. The minutes were approved.

Chair Report: Dr. Lee indicated that Dr. Harold served as the Vice Chair in 2013, but was not re-elected to his position on the RSC. The Faculty Governance Committee has approved Dr. Harold serving as Chair in an ex-officio capacity.

Dr. Lee indicated that we needed to elect a Vice Chair for next year. Dr. Harold nominated Dr. Fletcher for Vice Chair for 2014. Dr. Fletcher was approved by the RSC members to be Vice Chair for 2014.

Dr. Lee requested that Dr. Litvinov, representing the Faculty Governance Committee, announce the results of the elections of RSC representatives for the coming year to serve until 2016:

College of Education: Ezemenari Obasi will replace Frederick Lopez

Cullen College of Engineering: Gangbing Song will replace Michael Harold

Natural Sciences & Mathematics: Gregg Roman will replace Gemunu Gunaratne

Pharmacy: Richard Bond will replace Vincent Tam

Liberal Arts and Social Sciences: Michael Zvolensky was re-elected to a second three-year term

Law: Robert Palmer was re-elected to a second three-year term.

Faculty Senate: Will be represented by Maria Solino

Dr. Lee recognized members who were leaving the RSC and thanked them for their service.

### Subcommittee Reports

Resources and Core Facilities: Tam, Harold, Fletcher, Burns. Dr. Bose has met with this subcommittee and emphasized the importance of making sure that the subcommittee works together with the DOR to coordinate efforts. This subcommittee will re-convene next year and continue its work. Dr. Bose brought a speaker to the retreat to describe related efforts at UT Southwestern Medical School, Dr. Quan-Zhen Li.

Centers and Institutes (C&I): Fletcher, Jacobson, Ogmen, Zouridakis, Palmer, Milligan, and Salazar. Dr. Fletcher, subcommittee chair, reported that the subcommittee has worked hard this year on several projects:

- Revision of the Research C&I Review Guidelines to be more aligned with Academic Review Guidelines;
- Classification of all C&Is into Department/College or DOR/University controlled. Upon completion, a recommendation was made to Dr. Bose and Dr. Bose will develop an action plan.
- Review of the TOSI proposal.

- Early next year, the subcommittee will identify the research C&Is that need to be reviewed.
- Dr. Fletcher thanked his subcommittee for spending the amount of time that it took to accomplish these projects.
- Dr. Fletcher asked that the RSC recognize a name change from the Texas Diesel Testing and Research Center to the Texas Center for Clean Engine Emissions and Fuels (TXCESF). The members acknowledged this name change.

Research Excellence Awards: Dryer, Long, Lopez, Sharma, Chin, and Zouridakis. Tasks have been completed for this year and winners were awarded a trophy and an \$8,000 check at the faculty awards ceremony on April 24, 2013. The quality was excellent this year and choices difficult. Dr. Bose noted that the amount of the award printed in the program was incorrect and asked Anne Sherman to ensure that it is correct next year. There were some issues pertaining to biographical information from reviewers not included and with deadlines not being strictly enforced. Dr. Zvolensky indicated that we needed to clarify if we are requesting information on the entire career or just the year at UH. It was noted that the breadth of the university was not represented in the applications received. Dr. Dryer suggested that we increase the make-up of this subcommittee so that the program can be advertised in all of the colleges and more applications from all colleges encouraged. The RSC requested that statistical data for the past three years be gathered and made available. A **copy** of this year's winners is attached.

GEAR Program: Litvinov, Burns, Gunaratne, Lopez, Ogmen, and Zouridakis. Tasks have been completed for this year and winners notified. There were complaints that no reviews were offered for the applications that were not chosen and all recognized that the review process was already cumbersome given the busy time of the year. Randy Lee recommended a simple review procedure that would be completed jointly by the PI and DOR staff. This form is attached to these minutes and should be considered next year. It was suggested that the overall numerical evaluation be added to the form. Dr. Tam indicated that this will cause the subcommittee further issues. Dr. Tam also raised the question about support of faculty salary in GEAR. Dr. Fletcher indicated that there should be more proposals from CLASS. A **copy** of this year's winners is attached.

New Faculty/Small Grants Program: Bensaoula, Carrera, Ogmen, Titz, and Torres. Tasks have been completed for this year and winners notified. The subcommittee did further work on revising the guidelines for the NFA program. There was a suggestion that Research Assistant Professor be added as an eligible group of faculty, and that we should remove the title of "Instructor." There were also suggestions about consideration of start-up funding being lower than \$50,000 and that any start up funding earmarked for renovation should not be considered. Also, it was suggested that faculty can only apply for either small grants or new faculty, but not both. A **copy** of this year's winners is attached.

NOTE: Subcommittee reports were interrupted by **Guest Speaker: Dr. Quan-Zhen Li**, UT Southwestern Medical School, "Establishing a High Efficiency Genomics and Proteomics Core Facility."

#### **Subcommittee Reports (continued):**

Update RSC Bylaws: The subcommittee completed its work, and the by-laws were distributed before this May retreat. The Bylaws have been reviewed by the Faculty Governance Committee. There was a motion to accept these bylaws, and the motion passed. A **copy** is attached to these minutes.

There was an announcement that the Graduate and Professionals Study Committee (GPSC) will join the Faculty Senate. The RSC will keep the non-voting position on the RSC (currently represented by Dr. Titz) for two more years.

IDC Distribution Task Force: There was nothing significant to report from Drs. Fletcher and Jacobson.

Conflict of Interest and Compliance: There was nothing significant to report from Dr. Gunaratne.

Intellectual Property Committee: There was nothing significant to report from Dr. Dryer.

## Old Business:

- Consortium Policy: This policy was sent to the RSC members so that it could be voted on at this retreat. Dr. Gunaratne made a motion to accept these guidelines, and Dr. Lopez seconded. The motion passed. A copy is attached to these minutes.
- Library Representation: Proposal from Dean Dana Rooks to include Librarians in the formal list of individuals allowed to submit proposals to outside sponsors. Dr. Dryer made a motion to accept this proposal, and Dr. Litvinov seconded. The motion passed, and these faculty positions will be included on the DOR website as eligible to submit proposals without prior approval.

## New Business:

- Anne Sherman gave a DOR presentation on the new InfoEd/SPIN integrated systems that are being implemented currently. She also announced that DOR would be coming to each of the colleges to give this presentation and a demonstration.
- Dr. Bose: Priorities, etc.:
  - Dr. Bose expressed his appreciation for the RSC's work this year. He will continue to put the University's best interest at the forefront in the decisions that are sent forward by the RSC.
  - The process for start-up funds has been solidified.
  - There is a crisis regarding lab space. All colleges have needs. We need to look at the University's priorities. We are expecting approval from the Board of Regents to issue bonds for the Health and Biomedical Science building by the end of the month. Dr. Bose has committed to paying for one floor, est. \$7-9m. In order to get to \$200m research expenditures by 2020, we must have the faculty and the space for their labs. There are other models that we can look at, and the Chancellor has asked Dr. Bose to research this.
  - The IDC committee being led by Dr. Carlucci is looking at alternatives to the sharing of IDC. We need to consider incentives. Next year, Dr. Bose will share more of his ideas on this subject.
  - Last crisis to mention is the graduate student tuition situation. This discussion will also continue next year. We need a tuition waiver fund whereby we can provide equality for all graduate student tuition, as required by OMB A-21. The dilemma is how we will provide that fund.
  - Lastly, Dr. Bose indicated to the group that he is here to take care of the University. He requests that before discussing controversial issues outside of this group, that they be brought to his attention first.
- Vacation and Sick Leave Policy for personnel supported by grants: This issue is being reviewed by Dr. Carlucci, and an action plan is being developed.
- Balance between strict safety regulations and ability to conduct research: This topic will be addressed next year.

Dr. Lee, outgoing RSC Chair thanked all of the members for the support for all of the 2013 priorities. He also thanked the DOR staff for their support and in particular, Anne Sherman.

A list of the meeting dates for the coming year was provided to the members. There were comments from the group suggesting that the retreat be held a few days before graduation and not on graduation day. The list is attached to these minutes noting the suggested change.

The 2013 retreat adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

**The first meeting of the 2013-2014 academic year will be on Friday, September 20, 2013, in the Faculty Senate Conference Room, MD Anderson Library from 1:30 to 3:00 p.m.**