

Research and Scholarship Committee: September 16, 2011

Present: E. Anderson Fletcher, A. Bensaoula, J. Bhattacharya, R. Bose, A. Burns, R. Cline, J. Garson, G. Gunaratne, M. Harold, S. Hodge, C. Juhn, R. Lee, D. Litvinov, F. Lopez, H. Ogmen, and R. Palmer

Guests: J. Antel, C. Peters, and P. Sharma

Absent: C. Carlson, W. Chin (w/notice), J. Fletcher, M. Johnson, S. Long (w/notice), Anne Sherman (w/notice) and V. Tam (w/notice)

The meeting started at 1:32 p.m. Dr. Litvinov welcomed the members, noting this was the first meeting of the Research and Scholarship Committee. Members introduced themselves.

Dr. Bose, Vice President/Vice Chancellor for Research and Technology Transfer, thanked the Committee for inviting him to the meeting. He noted it was his sixth week on the job, saying he is impressed with the quality of the faculty and research programs. He said he wants to create and invest resources where they are needed. His focus is on core facilities that will serve UH best.

Dr. Bose indicated his immediate concern was how to create a core infrastructure in Engineering. He is also going to review all centers and institutes that report to the VP for Research and he urged the RSC to go back to their colleges and departments and urge them to review the centers and institutes that report to them.

Dr. Bose asked the RSC:

1. To create a University Policy for governing Centers and Institutes. It should include how to create a center or institute, plans on how and when center and institutes will be reviewed and develop criteria for that review.

Part of this question has to be research space allocation. Some centers/institutes still serve a purpose, some have served their original purpose but might adopt revised missions, and some should be closed. Resources have to be directed to areas that move research and UH forward. Dr. Bose is prepared to act, but must have a mandated policy before he can.

2. Review the use of IDC. IDC is designed to defray the cost of doing research, not cover it. Look at utilizing resources to maintain facilities, determine who is responsible for maintenance. UH has to manage its research resources. He wants a policy for IDC allocation, too.

Dr. Bose asked what issues he should address first. Sen. Harold asked about a sudden change that had to be made on a proposal. Dr. Bose replied that the official rate from the HHS was confirmed and he requested the change so that UH would be in compliance. The rates will be 49.5% for FY2012, 50% for FY2013, and 50.5% for FY2014.

John Antel, Senior Vice Chancellor/Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost, arrived and announced that he and Dr. Bose are working on building a Research Investment Fund that will provide bridge money for PIs and assistance in recruiting faculty.

Internal Grants have been funded this year. \$500,000 has been allocated but it will be a late start for taking applications. Sen. Garson will head up the Internal Grants Committee. Members include Sens.

Bensaoula, Gunaratne, and Juhn. Sen. Garson requested staff assistance, which will be provided by DOR.

Dr. Antel said he has been Provost for almost three years. One of his first acts was to have an audit of several areas and concluded that UH needs better management of its resources, including research. Facilities have been another problem, like finishing the SERC and remodeling S&RI. A consultant was hired to help UH prepare for the AAALAC. \$2 million was spent to fix the problems and UH passed inspection. In the future all primates will be moved to the new Optometry building.

Dr. Antel indicated that state funding will continue to decline. The IDC has other demands on it, so UH is going to build the Research Investment Fund. The RDF was at \$6 million, when a past administration used it to fund faculty/staff raises, but Carl Carlucci, Executive Vice Chancellor/Executive Vice President for Administration and Finance, and Dr. Antel have found ways to move that money to other funding sources, recapitalizing the RDF. UH may be the sole winner of N-RUF, depending on whether Texas Tech qualified, and will get \$9.4 million of recurring money. TRIP money will also be added to this pot and used to build research. The goal is \$100 million by 2020. The Provost added it was time to build models on how to manage research. He asked that RSC be realistic.

Dr. Antel reported that the Chancellor is working on a capital campaign. UH will have to use philanthropy to close the gap on TRBs, which the legislature won't allow in the future. He also reported that UH has too much deferred maintenance currently.

The Provost asked the RSC to consider how the N-RUF should be used. It must be used for research, including new faculty, start-ups, buildings, and build-outs. He stated that his first priority was building and maintaining first class core facilities, which would help recruit new faculty and save on start-up funding. Included in core facilities would be technicians and funding for depreciation. Dr. Antel said his second priority would be the Division of Research, which is unfunded. The more PIs, the greater the need for staff to assist in Pre- and Post-Award and people to manage core facilities. Intellectual property and technology transfer need to grow revenue for UH. He urged the group to consider renovation needs, too. He suggested not dividing the funds into small chunks, but think about team hires over a multiple years. He asked the RSC not to forget CLASS and the humanities. He requested the RSC to build a business model to manage research space and technology to allow PIs to concentrate on research, writing proposals and papers, attending conferences and growing the reputation of UH.

Sen. Bensaoula asked where non-tenure track faculty fit into the picture. Dr. Antel replied UH needs to integrate research faculty into the academy and provide a career ladder. Dr. Bose added that there is no uniform model. Research faculty help graduate students, so UH must decide what percent of their funding is from the institute and what is soft money. Some centers pay a portion of their salary. Dr. Antel interjected that TIMES has a portfolio of projects so it is easy to keep people busy.

Sen. Lee stated the RSC is being asked to help determine: a policy for centers and institutes; how IDC should be used; research space allocation; and recommend on N-RUF initiatives and allocations. Dr. Bose added UH has to invest in research. He asked the RSC look at core facilities first, saying, "It is your decision." He continued, "A policy has to be ratified by the Faculty Senate." That policy will become part of the *Faculty Handbook*.

Sen. Litvinov promised to send an email to the committee requesting senators to serve on one of the committees formed today:

- IDC and Research Space Allocation
- N-RUF Initiatives and Priorities

- Centers and Institutes Policy

Janok Bhattacharya was elected Chair by acclamation.

Items not covered:

- Discussion of RSC elections,
- Discussion of Internal Awards (other than forming a committee),
- Other appointments.

The meeting ended at 3:07 p.m.