

Minutes of RSC Meeting:

September 20, 2013

Present: Michael Harold, Alessandro Carrera, Wynne Chin, Ezemenari Obasi, Pradeep Sharma, Gangbing Song, Michael Zvolensky, Jack Fletcher, Gregg Roman, T. Randall Lee, Stuart Dryer, Alan Burns, Richard Bond, Luis Torres, Allan Jacobson, Jacqueline Hawkins, Patrick Bordnick, Driss Benhaddou (representing George Zouridakis), Christie Peters, Beverly Rymer, Mary Ann Ottinger, Brooke Gowl, Rathindra Bose, Rozlyn Reep, Ashley Merwin, Selesta Hodge, Mark Clarke, Cris Milligan

Absent: Gregory Marinic, Haluk Ogmen, Maria Solino, Stuart Long, Karl Titz, Robert Palmer, George Zouridakis, Abdelhak Bensaoula

The Chair called the meeting to order at 1:32 p.m.

Welcome by the Chair: Dr. Harold introduced himself as the Chair, and Dr. Fletcher as the Vice-Chair (and Chair of the RSC for next year). Dr. Harold welcomed everyone and as tradition, asked for everyone to give their name and affiliation and expectation of serving on the committee.

- Dr. Driss Benhaddou – Will be representing Dr. Zouridakis for one semester and was appointed today.
- Ashley Merwin – Executive Assistant to Dr. Bose
- Dr. Mary Ann Ottinger – New Associate Vice Chancellor/Vice President for Research
- Rozlyn Reep – Executive Administrative Assistant for Dr. Ottinger
- Dr. Brooke Gowl – Research Liaison for DOR
- Dr. Richard Bond – Pharmacy
- Dr. Ezemenari Obasi – Counseling Psychology; new to the RSC
- Dr. Jacqueline Hawkins – Former Associate Dean for the College of Education
- Cris Milligan – Director for Core Facilities in DOR
- Selesta Hodge – Executive Director for Research Services in DOR
- Dr. Mark Clarke- Associate Vice Chancellor/Vice President for Technology Transfer
- Dr. Pradeep Sharma – Chair for Mechanical Engineering

- Dr. Michael Zvolensky – Psychology; second time on RSC
- Dr. T. Randall Lee – College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics
- Dr. Allan Jacobson – Representing the Research Centers and Institutes; TcSUH
- Dr. Luis Torres – Social Work; 2nd year of RSC
- Christie Peters – Library
- Dr. Patrick Bordnick – Social Work
- Dr. Rathindra Bose – Vice Chancellor/Vice President for Research and Technology Transfer
- Dr. Wynne Chin – Business College
- Dr. Gregg Roman – Biology/Biochemistry; Director of the Biology of Behavior Institute
- Dr. Stuart Dryer – Physiologist in Biology/Biochemistry
- Dr. Alan Burns – Optometry
- Dr. Jack Fletcher – Psychology
- Dr. Gangbing Song – Mechanical Engineering; 1st year on RSC
- Dr. Michael Harold – Chair in Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering and Chair of RSC

Dr. Harold acknowledged Dr. Lee as a great mentor in the previous year of the RSC.

Introduction of new Associate Vice President: Dr. Bose introduced Dr. Ottinger as the new Associate Vice_Chancellor/Vice President for Research. She comes from University of Maryland as a Biologist and has been the Associate Vice President for their office and a program director at NSF. Her primary responsibility will be to work with the RSC and also on grant applications.

Review of RSC Role and Activities; Bylaws: Dr. Harold reviewed the role of the RSC especially for new members. The role of the RSC is to advise and make recommendations to the Vice President for Research and Technology Transfer on matters pertaining to research development and on policies concerning the conduct of research-related activities at the University. The three main responsibilities of the RSC are:

1. Administer the Internal Grants Program
2. Recognize and Administer the Faculty Research Excellence Awards
3. Make recommendations to the VP for Research and Technology Transfer

Everyone represents various aspects of the research enterprise. The RSC used to be an independent body and about 3 years ago was brought into the Faculty Senate. Who is the RSC? The RSC is representatives and advocates of research and scholarship at UH. The goal is to come together and figure out how to piece things together. There are times when there will be tension and individuals won't always see eye to eye. While conflict is inevitable, we can conduct ourselves professionally. The goal is to find a solution to complex issues in order to benefit the research enterprise.

Review and Approval of May 10, 2013 Meeting Minutes: Dr. Harold asked for any comments or discussion of the minutes from May. Dr. Harold asked for a motion to approve the minutes. Dr. Chin made the motion to accept the minutes, and Dr. Dryer seconded the motion. The minutes were approved.

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

- Dr. Bose thanked Dr. Lee for running an excellent committee last year and thanked the committee as a whole. A lot had been accomplished last year and there is still a lot of unfinished business to be done this year. Everyone should think of the University's agenda and think of the University as a whole.
- Regarding sequestration, there has been a negative effect. 10% of federal government grants in FY13 were lost, but some have been recovered from the states and industries, but not enough. In 2011, there was \$94M in external grants. In 2012 there was \$107M, so it increased close to \$14M last year. This year is close to \$102M, so the real loss is \$7M from federal grants. An analysis has been done and Dr. Bose will send out that information to the individual Deans.
- How can we be competitive? We have to recruit the best faculty, provide better lab facilities, have more training, and conduct careful reading of the proposals that are sent out. We want to bring in outside individuals, and hold workshops.
- There has been a reorganization of DOR. Dr. Bose encountered some challenges when he arrived at UH a couple of years ago. There was a lack of standard operating procedures, compliance issues, and responsibility issues. We have been through several audits and survived those, and also secured major resources to create a Research Investment Fund. The reorganization is almost done. The Post-Award Office used to be divided, but it has merged and Beverly Rymer heads that office. The Pre-Award Office was decentralized, so Dr. Ottinger will work with that office.

- The major challenge right now is space. Dr. Bose does not see how the University will keep up with the space needs in the next 5 years. The plan for the next few years is:
 1. Get the second Biomedical Science Building going - that would help Pharmacy and Biology/Biochemistry
 2. Get the SR2 Building going and have it renovated
 3. DOR will use the royalty income and part of IDC to create a Multidisciplinary Engineering and Core Facility Building
 4. Cris Milligan is conducting a space assessment inventory for space that is being utilized. Once the list is compiled, we can develop a plan on the cost to renovate those unutilized spaces. One idea from a recent Associate Deans meeting was to use an identified building on campus as a storage place for equipment. This information and equipment request will be sent out from Ashley in order to identify the equipment you have so we can free up some space.

- For new hires, we need to get our lab facilities in order before we can bring in new faculty. A survey was sent out recently to new faculty regarding their lab space, cost centers, and if they were functional. Responses were received from most everyone and DOR will reach out to the Colleges to find out how long it will take to get those functional that are not already up and running. Once this information is received, Dr. Bose will report back to the RSC.

FY2014 Subcommittee Assignments: The work of the RSC is completed through subcommittees. Dr. Harold has assigned at least 1 member to each subcommittee and has left the names and missions of the subcommittees the same:

Resources & Core Facilities: Burns, Chin, Fletcher, Long, Roman. The mission is to work with Dr. Bose on investments and the definition of core facilities on campus.

Centers & Institutes: Fletcher (will be the Chair until Dr. Zouridakis returns), Jacobson, Marinic, Ogmen, Torres, Obasi, Zouridakis

Research & Excellence Award: Lee, Bond, Chin, Palmer, Sharma, Zvolensky

GEAR Program: Ogmen, Bond, Burns, Dryer, Roman, Song, Zvolensky. The mission is to allocate GEAR awards later in the academic year.

New Faculty Awards/Small Grants: Torres, Bensaoula, Carrera, Marinic, Obasi, Palmer, Titz. The mission is to distribute new faculty awards and small grants.

Conflict of Interest & Compliance: Burns

Intellectual Property Committee: Dryer

IDC Distribution Policy Task Force: Fletcher, Jacobson, Sharma

Old Business:

Core Facility Proposals: Dr. Fletcher reported that Core Facilities was a difficult issue last year. No proposals were recommended for funding for many reasons. The subcommittee met several times on the proposals, and they were difficult to evaluate. The guidelines were not fully developed before the proposals were submitted. In particular, the RFP was a request for major equipment, while the subcommittee was tasked with reviewing core facilities. A sustainable financial plan was part of the criteria, but the University does not have clear, transparent guidelines for chargebacks across departments. The subcommittee felt that the applicants needed assistance with a financial plan and that the University needs to develop clear guidelines and procedures for chargeback. The proposals could have been improved if revisions were sought, so the subcommittee solicited revisions before being sent to outside reviewers. However, opportunities for revision and the use of outside reviewers were not in the RFP, so this may have created some unfairness in the process. The subcommittee recommended that faculty members who submitted proposals be given another opportunity in a new call. Dr. Bose stated that the subcommittee put a lot of work into this but was not able to come up with a solution. We will need to go back and look through the criteria and clarify the guidelines, and then another solicitation can be started. Dr. Bose noted that we have not received the budget for this year yet, so in the worst case scenario we would have to do this next year. Dr. Harold stated that the charge to the subcommittee is to come up with guidelines and work with Dr. Bose on a new solicitation. Dr. Harold also asked Dr. Bose if DOR would provide the list of projects funded by DOR that were in the less than \$400K investment category. Dr. Bose agreed that this list would be provided.

Tuition Waiver Policy: Beverly Rymer summarized the policy. Dr. Bose stated that in his first year here the RSC worked hard to create a policy for tuition waiver. There were many meetings to address this policy, and the committee came up with a recommendation that we will include tuition in the grant for all federal government grants where the agency will pay, provided that once we recover the funds, they would go back to the PIs so more students can be hired. Dr. Bose did not know at that time that even if the tuition is recouped, the University doesn't get to keep 100%, so that is one problem. Beverly posted the policy last year to go ahead and charge tuition and we were assured that for those agencies that could not pay tuition, that we would have enough DSTF funds to use.

Vacation and Sick Leave Policy: Selesta reported that she had been assigned, along with other individuals, by Dr. Carlucci to see the feasibility of implementing this policy here. There is a possibility of using the policy from UT Austin for the next year. We would look to create an institutional pool and that pool would bear the burden for the pool. Every benefit eligible position would get taxed a small portion to fund the pool.

Balance between strict safety regulations and ability to conduct research: Joe Tremont is the permanent Director for Safety. Dr. Harold may bring him to a future RSC Meeting.

New Business:

Simplification on Research Classification: Dr. Harold stated that Dr. Bose inherited a cluster system from his predecessor. These clusters have multiplied and are now at about 65. The idea is to properly define research being done so Dr. Bose can promote it to outside stakeholders. Dr. Harold assigned this item to the Centers and Institutes Subcommittee so they can come up with something simpler. Dr. Burns is assigned the task to find an existing system that we can adopt from.

InfoEd: An update will be provided at the next meeting. InfoEd will be taking over RAMP and DOR is currently educating faculty on the system.

New Initiatives and Issues Taken up by RSC for AY2013-14: This will be discussed at the next meeting. The committee needs to decide as a group what we want to take on this year. Some items are IDC Distribution and Research Classification. Dr. Harold requested for everyone to send him their items for discussion at the next RSC Meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:56p.m.

The next meeting will be on Friday, October 18, same location from 1:30-3:00pm.