

**Present:** Jack Fletcher, George Zouridakis, Richard Bond, Alan Burns, Alessandro Carrera, Wynne Chin, Stuart Dryer, Randy Lee, Stuart Long, Jay Neal, Clayton Neighbors, Ezemenari Obasi, Shin-Shim Steven Pei, Christie Peters, Gregg Roman, Gangbing Song, Luis Torres, Michael Zvolensky, Patrick Bordnick, Maria Bondesson, Maria Solino, Rathindra Bose, Mary Ann Ottinger, Cris Milligan, Brooke Gowl, Maribel Salazar, Rozlyn Reep, Ashley Merwin

**Absent:** Allan Jacobson, Gregory Marinic, Robert Palmer, Pradeep Sharma, Mark Clarke

Welcome by the Chair: Chair Dr. Fletcher called the meeting to order and gave a brief overview of the RSC and its functions. The committee will meet on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday of each month with a couple of exceptions. He encouraged everyone to bring agenda items and concerns before the committee followed by introductions.

Approval of May Minutes

Dr. Fletcher asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the RSC Retreat. Dr. Dryer made a motion and Dr. Lee seconded. The minutes were approved.

Status Report by VP/VC Dr. Bose:

- Dr. Bose thanked Dr. Harold and the RSC for doing an excellent job last year. He welcomed everyone back and stated he looks forward to working with the RSC returning and new members.
- 2014 has been a great year.
  - AUTM has released their report and UH ranked #24 in the nation in generating licensing revenue. If we normalize the research expenditure, UH ranked #1 among public institutions without a medical college. This is a great accomplishment.
  - We created a partnership with TCRC in May.
  - Faculty submitted over 60 invention disclosures last year, which is a record number. Dr. Bose thanked Dr. Clarke and his team.
  - Faculty submitted more proposals than ever before. He thanked Dr. Ottinger for working with everyone on submitting larger proposals. Dr. Bose would like to reach the \$1B research proposal amount over the next few years.
- Dr. Bose stated that last year Beverly Rymer made a presentation on A-81 implementation. The federal government has combined 8 circulars into 1. For the elements in the circular, we need to make any adjustments by December 26. So Dr. Bose has appointed a task force to see what is missing and what needs to be done, and Dr. Fletcher has agreed to serve on the task force. The task force is

chaired by Tom Ehardt and includes representatives from IT, HR, Administration and Finance, and the Office of the Provost. This team will be assisted by Beverly and Cris.

- The Animal Users Advisory Committee has been formed, and Dr. Bose expressed his appreciation for the initiative taken by the RSC last year to create this committee. He made a personal appeal to everyone and asked everyone to go see the animal care operations first hand before the committee first meets. He was proud to say that the facilities that we created have been featured in many places. One example of an innovation in the new facilities is that Dr. Brammer has installed sensors that turn on the air when it reaches a certain level, rather than having the automatic 10-15 exchanges/hour set up. This has resulted in considerable savings on electric bills. Dr. Bose also is exploring ways to reduce the per diem cost for all animal users by 25%. Because this would create a deficit in Dr. Brammer's budget, he has been working with the deans on how to proceed. He has met with 3 of the deans and will meet with 2 other deans; so far the deans are in support of his plan and he hopes to implement retroactively.
- Dr. Bose stated that core facilities that serve faculty are critical to the infrastructure of the university to enable researchers to achieve high quality, cutting edge research. He asked for Dr. Fletcher and Dr. Burns to review the Core Facilities Proposal policy again. His plan is to spend \$1M on core facilities.
- The Faculty Senate had asked Dr. Bose to provide an organization chart, so he provided one as a handout for the RSC. One side of the handout shows what the leadership organization was before his arrival. The other side of the handout shows the current leadership. He then discussed each person on the chart and their functions. As can be seen by the charts, Dr. Bose has 7 directors reporting lines rather than the 10 that the former VPR had. He has been trying to figure out what is best for the organization and how he can serve faculty better. Has he added more employees? Yes, he has added more in the Technology Transfer office. He has created an Associate Director position and a support position due to the increase in volume of work in that office. The other area that he has added 2 employees is Research Compliance. Overall, the total head count is less than before.
- Dr. Burns asked that for the Core Facilities guidelines, is that a single pot of \$1M?
- Dr. Bose stated that he has budgeted no more than \$1M for this year for core facility proposals.
- Dr. Burns asked if 1 or 2 proposals would be funded.
- Dr. Bose stated that it depends on the amounts requested by proposals submitted.

- Dr. Pei stated that it is refreshing to hear that Dr. Bose is streamlining operations. He asked about the funding structure of the MREB building since the groundbreaking is coming soon.
- Dr. Bose stated that he had discussed this with the RSC and Faculty Senate. His goal is to bring everyone together. He had originally approached Finance and Administration saying that we need a Science and Engineering building and he can take over the bond payments. Dr. Carlucci had felt that was a good idea. At that time, the SERC building had just been completed, so a decision was made to create the MREB building. The proposal was to make a multidisciplinary research core facility along with engineering. DOR has committed \$52M for this building. We will be moving HPC and other core facilities there. This was presented to the Faculty Senate Executive Committee about 2 years ago.
- Dr. Pei stated that he heard that Engineering contributed \$10M and asked if it was a donation.
- Dr. Bose stated that yes, Engineering did contribute but could not say who the donation was from.
- Dr. Bose was assured by VP Stuhr \$10M had been raised. These funds are part of the total project cost required from Engineering. They are not part of a “set aside fund” for maintenance. This will be a “set aside fund” for maintenance for any new building going forward.
- Dr. Roman congratulated Dr. Bose on his leadership and also thanked Dr. Ottinger for her help with a grant proposal. He continued to ask about a rumored weeklong shutdown of power to the University.
- Dr. Bose stated that he has been engaged in that conversation and Cris Milligan has been attending all of the meetings.
- Cris stated that there will be a shutdown. They’re hoping it’s only for a week. The campus will be fully shutdown during that time. The University will be bringing in 12 trailer generators to fully power research buildings. The shutdown will begin on December 24 and they hope everything will be back up on or before the 30<sup>th</sup>.
- Dr. Bose stated that they will give periodic updates to everyone on this issue as the date approaches.
- Cris stated that they will make sure that every college has been notified and everyone’s needs are met.

FY2014 Subcommittee Assignments and Reports:

**New Faculty/Small Grants:** Dr. Obasi will be Chair for both New Faculty and Small Grants. Other members include Drs. Marinic, Neal, Pei, Peters, and Torres.

Announcements for these awards are typically made October 10 with a deadline of November 15. Awards are usually made December 20.

Dr. Fletcher asked Dr. Torres to discuss recommendations from last year's Small Grants subcommittee. Dr. Torres gave the following update:

- 1) Last year the RSC recommended that the "cost of travel" issue be deleted from the list of recommendations. The subcommittee removed the "cost of travel".
- 2) The subcommittee recommended that they make the reviewer exclusion at the department level. Last year, the RSC felt this was a fair and balanced recommendation.
- 3) The subcommittee recommended that there be a consistent set of criteria for ranking. Last year the RSC suggested that the subcommittee develop these criteria prior to the next cycle of review.
- 4) The subcommittee recommended clearer guidance pertaining to the \$50K exclusion for startup packages. The RSC made no final decision on this issue.
- 5) The subcommittee recommended that the issue of repeat applicants be discussed. Last year, this issue was not resolved.

Dr. Fletcher requested a discussion about each point. 1.) Travel has already been addressed. 2.) Exclusion at the department level is reasonable. 3.) The subcommittee can develop a rubric for ranking. 4.) There was a consensus last year that the \$50,000 rule would be retained.

In regards to the 4<sup>th</sup> point, Dr. Obasi stated that often times \$50,000 is not clear with startup packages and it can be tricky to track the number. Also, personnel will probably take up a large portion of the amount.

Dr. Fletcher asked the committee if they should exclude personnel costs, i.e. summer salary, student support, etc. Dr. Dryer said it was a reasonable thing to do and suggested excluding personnel all together. The committee agreed.

In regards to the 5<sup>th</sup> recommendation, the Committee agreed that the 5 year rule was fair. According to current guidelines, applicants have to show progress if they received an award in the past.

Dr. Fletcher asked for a vote on the recommendations. The recommendations passed. The subcommittee will send updated guidelines to Dr. Ottinger.

**Excellence:** Dr. Chin will Chair the Excellence subcommittee. Other members include Drs. Carrera, Dryer, Neighbors, and Song. The announcement for this opportunity is typically made December 2 with a deadline of January 3. Awards are usually made April 18. The subcommittee is charged with reviewing nominations for the University Awards for Excellence in Research, Scholarship and Creativity. There are two awards at each tenure track rank: Assistant, Associate, and Full.

Based on the RSC Retreat, the committee will address the structure of the awards. They were also encouraged to review the detailed discussion in the minutes from the Retreat. Dr. Fletcher asked the subcommittee to meet and consider recommendations to present at the next meeting.

**GEAR:** Dr. Roman is the Chair for this subcommittee. Other members include Drs. Bond, Burns, Palmer, Song, and Zvolensky. Awards are up to \$30,000. Dr. Fletcher asked the subcommittee to review the current guidelines and present at the next meeting. The announcement for this award is typically made December 6 with a pre-proposal deadline of January 31, a full proposal deadline of March 14, and awards made April 25.

**Centers and Institutes:** Dr. Zouridakis will continue to be the Chair for this subcommittee. Other members include Drs. Jacobson, Lee, Long, Sharma, and Zvolensky.

Dr. Fletcher asked Dr. Zouridakis to provide an update on DOR Centers, including the review of the proposed center by NCALM.

The Centers and Institutes Subcommittee of the RSC has reviewed the NCALM proposal to become a DOR University-wide center several times. The subcommittee would recommend that NCALM be approved as a University center, with some reservations, including the request of \$200,000 per year from DOR, which includes salary for the director and faculty lines and a request for receiving the full IDC return.

Dr. Bose acknowledged that some, but not all, current center directors receive an administrative stipend of not more than 10% of their salary to run their center or institute. The proposal for NCALM asked for faculty lines, which is not under Dr. Bose's purview. The IDC distribution formula for DOR University-wide centers and institutes is for 74% of the return to go to the generating units whereas the remaining 26% goes to DOR. This is the "college/department" share which is typically over 50% of the total IDC return. Dr. Fletcher added that the actual amounts also depend on the negotiated credit split and that 100% return of the "college/department" share to a center seems unrealistic because it assumes no credit splits.

Dr. Bose stated that we need the clarification for University-wide centers and institutes. Dr. Zouridakis stated that the subcommittee will work with Dr. Ottinger and Ms. Cris Milligan on this.

Dr. Fletcher asked for a vote on NCALM. Dr. Lee made a motion to disprove the center based on the reason that the budget is not viable. Dr. Carrera seconded. The motion was approved.

**Core Facilities:** Dr. Burns will Chair Core Facilities. Other members include Drs. Roman, Chin, and Song. Dr. Fletcher asked the subcommittee to look at the guidelines. He also noted a correction to the agenda which stated \$2 million for core facility awards. The correct number is \$1 million.

**Animal User Advisory Committee:** Dr. Bond agreed to be Chair of this committee. Other members include Drs. Bondesson, Dryer, Frishman, Larin, Leasure, Tam, Ottinger (ex officio), Brammer (ex officio) and Ms. Kirstin Rochford (ex officio). This committee was formed by the RSC based on recommendations from the Retreat to increase communication between faculty members involved in animal research with administrative officials in DOR. It will be advisory to Dr. Bose.

**Conflict of Interest & Compliance:** Dr. Burns will serve as RSC representative for this committee.

**Intellectual Property Committee:** Dr. Palmer will serve as RSC representative for this committee.

New Business:

**Travel concerns** - There are concerns about the travel policy. The Faculty Senate is addressing the issue and the need for a consistent travel policy across departments and colleges. There have been some issues mentioned with Travel and DOR and the issues are being discussed. Since there was no time to discuss, the item was tabled for the next meeting. Cris distributed a handout of the DOR Travel Checklist.

**Hiring of post docs** – Dr. Bose met with HR about the issue of requiring posting of degrees. HR has agreed that confirmation of completion of degree requirements is sufficient for hiring post docs and this issue has been resolved.

**Office of research development update** – Dr. Ottinger informed the committee that she will have more information on processes and resources by the November meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:05 PM. The next meeting will be Friday, October 17 from 1:30 – 3:00 PM in the Faculty Senate Conference Room.