

Research and Scholarship Committee: October 21, 2011

Present: Pradeep Sharma, Haluk Ogmen, Stowe Shoemaker, Chinhui Juhn, James Garson, Jack Fletcher, Robert Palmer, Janok Bhattacharya, Randall Lee, Alan Burns, Vincent Tam, Ray Cline, Abdelhak Bensaoula, Stuart Long, Dmitri Litvinov, Rathindra Bose, Anne Sherman and Liz Anderson Fletcher.

Absent: Matthew Johnson, Wynne Chin, Fred Lopez, Michael Harold, Gemunu Gunaratne, Coleen Carlson.

Guests: C. Peters.

The meeting started at 1:32 p.m. Dr. Bhattacharya, Chair, welcomed the members. The minutes from the 9/16/11 meeting were reviewed and Dr. Lee moved to approve the minutes and Dr. Palmer seconded. The motion passed.

Report from Dr. Bose, Vice President/Vice Chancellor for Research and Technology Transfer:

He wants this committee to advise him on how to enhance research and scholarship at UH. He and Dr. Bhattacharya will meet before each meeting to discuss matters that need to be addressed.

Dr. Bose has met with Provost Antel about space. Dr. Bose would like for the RSC to invite a task force that is working on the same issues to avoid redundancy. David Francis is leading the task force. Recommendations would then be put through to the Faculty Senate for approval.

Another important issue is the establishment of core facilities, which will be critical to our future success. Dr. Bose announced that he has made an offer to a Director, who will work with the administration and faculty to ensure that the investment in core facilities is implemented. He has invited 12-13 faculty to meet about this topic and to provide advice. Dr. Lee suggested that an inventory be performed on current facilities and Dr. Palmer indicated that maintenance needs to be prioritized. Dr. Bose indicated that he meets 2-3 times a week with Dr. Antel to discuss these issues. The needs must be coordinated with the resources required to bring in and support potential new hires. Dr. Ogmen suggested that we need a listing of facilities in the Houston area that are available for research use.

Dr. Bose wants an administrative review of the Centers and Institutes to ensure that obligations are being fulfilled. Metrics must be determined.

Report from Dr. Bhattacharya, Chair of the RSC: He is delighted to be in this role and to be part of the Faculty Senate. He wants everyone to be able to express their opinions and to raise issues that are important to all research endeavors.

Subcommittee Reports:

Dr. Lee brought up the fact that he believes that there is a discrepancy in the subcommittees that Dr. Bose mentioned at the last meeting and that he wants to have input on NRUF. Dr. Bose

clarified this by indicating that the RSC needs to invite Dr. Antel back to discuss and that our job is to identify the facilities needed, not where the funds originate.

Dr. Litvinov indicated that the “clusters” list needs to be modified.

Internal Awards: Dr. Garson announced that the Small Grants and New Faculty awards had been announced and that the GEAR will be announced soon. A discussion ensued regarding the reviews of the GEAR proposals. Dr. Sharma suggested an internal panel versus using the reviewers supplied by the applicants. Lynne Manry in the Office of Contracts and Grants will assist on all three awards with the administrative matters. Dr. Bose offered to pay for a graduate student to assist with the reviews of the GEAR proposals.

Centers and Institutes: We have guidelines for creating new C&I, but we do not have procedures for dismantling a C&I that is no longer viable. Dr. Bose suggested that 1) the RSC develop the metrics, 2) the VPR appoint a faculty committee to collect the data and that the RSC reviews the data and makes recommendations.

The Subcommittees are as follows:

Internal Awards: Garson, Bensaoula, Gunaratne, Juhn, Shoemaker, J. Fletcher; GEAR:
Sharma, Lee, Tam
Centers and Institutes: J. Fletcher, Shoemaker, Ogmen
Research Space and Core Facilities, Harold, Lee

Election of RSC Vice Chair: Dr. Bhattacharya nominated Dr. Lee and Dr. Garson seconded. The motion passed.

Old Business:

Update on Travel policy: Dr. Litvinov indicated that several former RC members provided input, but that the policy had not been ratified as of this date.

Research Faculty Document: Dr. Bensaoula asked where this document went. Dr. Garson indicated that the document needed to be sent forward to the Faculty Senate.

New Business: Assessment of university’s past and present performance in research and scholarship and development of strategies plans brought up by Dr. Ogmen was tabled and will be addressed next meeting.

Dr. Palmer moved to adjourn the meeting and Dr. Tam seconded. Meeting adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

The meeting ended at 3:07 p.m.