

Minutes of the Research and Scholarship Committee:

November 16, 2012

Present: Frederick Lopez, Karl Titz, Alessandro Carrera, Jack Fletcher, Robert Palmer, Randall Lee, Stuart Dryer, Jason Porter for Alan Burns, Luis Torres, George Zouridakis, Stuart Long, Dmitri Litvinov; ex officio members: Roth Bose, Mark Clarke, Anne Sherman, Brooke Gowl, Maribel Salazar, Christie Peters, Ashley Merwin and David Phillips, Associate Dean for Research, CLASS.

Absent: Matthew Johnson, Wynne Chin, Pradeep Sharma, Haluk Ogmen, Michael Harold, Michael Zvolensky, Gemunu Gunaratne, Vincent Tam, Abdelhak Bensaoula, Cris Milligan, and Allan Jacobson.

The meeting was called to order by the Chair at 1:35 p.m.

Chair Report: Dr. Lee welcomed everyone to the November meeting of the RSC for FY13. He introduced Ashley Merwin, who is the new Executive Assistant to the VC/VP for Research and Technology Transfer.

Review and approval of minutes from 10/19/2012 meeting: Dr. Zouridakis made a motion to approve the minutes and Dr. Dryer seconded. The motion carried.

Report by VP/VC Bose: Dr. Bose welcomed everyone. Dr. Bose provided updates for the following items:

- State Audit following OMB A-133 Standards. Dr. Bose reported that the audit is ongoing, and that we are still providing information to the auditors. He will keep the RSC informed. He indicated that two areas of concern are cost transfers after the expiration date and extra pay.
- COGR Meeting. NIH is under a continuing resolution; continuing awards will be funded, but at a reduced amount until the final NIH budget is approved.
- NSF and NIH Audits. Both agencies are conducting audits regarding extra pay. They will be expanding their sample to continue this examination.
- AVPR hiring. He has re-advertised this position after re-forming the search committee. Dmitri Litvinov will be chair. Others on the search committee include Jack Fletcher and Randy Lee. Dr. Bose wants to hire the right person, and this is taking some time.
- FCOI Committee. Dr. Palmer has agreed to serve on the FCOI committee representing the RSC/Faculty Senate.

Subcommittee Reports:

Resources and Core Facilities: Subcommittee members are: Randy Lee, Alan Burns, Jack Fletcher, Mike Harold, Vincent Tam, and Cris Milligan. Seven Core Facility proposals were received and were considered by the subcommittee at the last meeting. Six of the seven fit the core facility definition. The one that did not will be triaged. The remaining six will be reviewed and revised before they are sent to external reviewers. There was a discussion on whether or not the subcommittee should comment specifically or generally to the 6 PIs regarding the potential revision of proposals. Dr. Palmer made a motion to let the subcommittee decide on how to proceed. Dr. Long seconded and the motion passed. Dr. Bose indicated that we need to identify and support core priorities, and that the chairs should be asked about equipment availability.

Dr. Lee appointed a task force to develop a database of major MRI on campus. The members are Stuart Dryer, Dmitri Litvinov, George Zouridakis, Randy Lee, Jason Porter, and Mark Clarke.

Regarding IDC Distribution, Dr. Bose stated that the task force will be announced before EOY.

Centers and Institutes: Subcommittee members are: Jack Fletcher, Allan Jacobson, Haluk Ogmen, George Zouridakis, Robert Palmer, Cris Milligan, and Maribel Salazar. Dr. Fletcher, subcommittee chair, gave a report and thanked Dr. Lee and Maribel for their support. By the next meeting, the subcommittee will draft recommendations for termination of centers/institutes. See draft preliminary findings, which should remain confidential until finalized. Regarding the consortium policy, we are looking at other university policies and will send a draft to the RSC soon.

Research Excellence Awards: Subcommittee members are: Stuart Dryer, Stuart Long, Frederick Lopez, Vincent Tam, and Michael Zvolensky.

GEAR Program: Subcommittee members are: Alan Burns, Gemunu Gunaratne, Frederick Lopez, Pradeep Sharma, and George Zouridakis. Dr. Vincent Tam also volunteered for this committee.

New Faculty/Small Grants Program: Subcommittee members are: Abdelhak Bensaoula, Alessandro Carrera, Haluk Ogmen, Karl Titz, and Luis Torres. Dr. Titz agreed to chair this subcommittee. There are enough funds to fund all of the New Faculty Awards, and there will be about \$24k remaining. All agreed that the excess should be re-budgeted to the Small Grants program. The subcommittee will meet in early December and will make announcements on both programs by December 21, 2012.

Update RSC Bylaws: Luis Torres and George Zouridakis agreed to work with Anne Sherman to draft changes to the Bylaws. This draft will be presented to the RSC before finalization.

Old Business:

Tuition Waiver Policy: Update by VC/VP Bose. We are working with the Provost Office to resolve the issues. In the meantime, PIs will be encouraged to put tuition as a Direct Cost in proposal budgets. Jack Fletcher will work with Beverly Rymer on this matter.

New Business:

Book Subvention Program: Before Kathy Brosnan left UH, Dr. Bose asked her to draft this program. Dr. David Phillips, who has replaced her as Associate Dean for Research came to this meeting to discuss the proposed program (see attachment). This program could run like the Small Grants Program, with a couple of deadlines per year. Dr. Bose indicated his support, but wants the RSC to take ownership of it. Dr. Lee asked for three volunteers to look at the proposal and bring it back to the RSC with recommendations. The three are Mark Clarke, Michael Zvolensky, and Pradeep Sharma.

Balance between strict safety regulations and ability to conduct research: All agreed to invite the new EHS Director (once appointed) to a future RSC meeting.

Motion to adjourn the meeting by Dr. Palmer and seconded by Dr. Titz. The motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 3:05 p.m.

The next meeting will be on Friday, December 14, 2012, same location from 1:30-3:00 p.m.

Subventions for Books

The University of Houston Subvention program assists tenured and tenure-track faculty members with publication by presses known to the scholarly community for books or monographs of high quality. Frequently university and other scholarly presses demand that authors provide funds to underwrite the publication of scholarly monographs and books. These subvention awards provide financial assistance to faculty members when departments and deans are unable to provide needed support.

The maximum award will be \$3,000. Cost sharing from the applicant's department and college is encouraged.

Requirements:

- The faculty member requesting support must be sole or primary author and currently appointed at the University of Houston as a tenured or tenure-track faculty member.
- Individuals who will receive a cash advance from the publisher are not qualified.
- Subvention support of more than once in a three year period is subject to availability of funds and the applicant pool.
- The author and the publisher must acknowledge the financial assistance of the Division of Research of the University of Houston in an acknowledgement section of the book.
- Funds are only paid directly to the publisher; authors may not be reimbursed from the account.
- Publications can be in any language and any discipline.
- Artwork, maps, photographs, permissions and other special production elements are allowed.
- Publication of textbooks, translations of previously published books or book reprints will *not* be supported.
- Routine author activities, such as indexing, or page and reprint costs of articles in professional journals are not covered.
- If the book is not published, the author and publisher agree to reimburse the funds back to the University.

Application Materials:

1. Faculty author's cover letter explaining the project and the appropriateness of the specific press for publication in your field; the most important criterion in evaluating an application for a subvention will be the quality of the project.
2. Application form signed by the faculty author's department chair and dean.
3. An abbreviated curriculum vitae including major publications and all research awards; must not exceed 3 pages.
4. Copies of referees' reports. If the referees are not identified by name in the reports, the press editor must confirm the professional stature of the readers.
5. Formal letter of acceptance from a publisher
6. A statement by the publisher that a subvention of a *specific amount* is required and *justification* for that amount.
7. Letter of support from the chair/director confirming the quality of the press and indicating any funds available from departmental sources.