

Minutes of the Research and Scholarship Committee:

January 20, 2012

Present: Wynn Chin, Pradeep Sharma, Haluk Ogmen, Michael Harold, Stowe Shoemaker, James Garson, Jack Fletcher, Robert Palmer, Janok Bhattacharya, Randall Lee, Alan Burns, Vincent Tam, Abdelhak Bensaoula, Dmitri Litvinov, Rathindra Bose, Anne Sherman and Cris Milligan.

Absent: Matthew Johnson, Frederick Lopez, Chinhui Juhn, Gemunu Gunaratne, Ray Cline, Coleen Carlson, Stuart Long, and Roth Bose.

Guests: C. Peters and Davis Francis.

The meeting was called to order by the Chair at 1:30 p.m.

Chair Report: Dr. Bhattacharya reported that Dr. Bose sent his regrets about missing this meeting. He will communicate with the group either by email or at the next meeting.

Review and approval of minutes from December 16, 2011 meeting. Dr. Garson moved to approve the minutes and Dr. Litvinov seconded. The minutes were approved.

Dr. Bose Report: Since Dr. Bose was not able to attend this meeting of the RSC, Dr. Bhattacharya communicated several items. Dr. Bose wants to hire an Associate Vice President and has asked Dr. Bhattacharya to Chair the selection process. Also on the committee will be Associate Dean Lokhandwala, Pharmacy, Dr. Francis, TIMES, Dmitri Litvinov, Engineering, and Associate Dean Brosnan, CLASS. An advertisement is being prepared and will be placed soon. He wants to fill the position by end of this semester. Progress will be provided to the RSC.

Centers and Institutes: Jack Fletcher, Stowe Shoemaker, Haluk Ogmen, Brooke Gowl, Cris Milligan and Anne Sherman. Dr. Bhattacharya pointed out that the websites of many of the Centers and Institutes are outdated and need to be cleaned up. Recently, Dr. Bose asked for a report from the centers/institutes that report to the DOR. A policy or process to close down ones that are not needed should be developed. Dr. Bhattacharya asked for a draft at the next meeting. The subcommittee will look at the 2010 process and will develop the process. Anne Sherman will call together a meeting.

New Business: Dr. David Francis attended this meeting to report on the Draft Space Management Policy. The Budget Advisory Committee took a broad look at the issues. First draft was issued to the Provost and it recommended principles. Dr. Francis asked for feedback or questions from the RSC. There were 3 comments: 1. Periodic review of assigned space. 2. RSC recommendations to Dr. Bose will consider the data and principles contained in this report. 3. Need clearly articulated policy so that space can be relinquished and reinstated. Hopefully, this will eliminate negotiating for space, as was done in the past. Dr. Francis reported that the University of South Florida, Department of Psychology and the University of Michigan have the best policies.

Core Facilities: Members are Mike Harold, Randall Lee, Vincent Tam, Bensaoula, Sharma, Long, Cris Milligan and Brooke Gowl. Dr. Lee will send the RFP draft to the entire RSC. This should be reviewed by the next meeting and it will be voted on then and sent forward to Dr Bose.

Support for Graduate Students: Michael Harold, Randall Lee and Beverly Rymer are members of this subcommittee. Dr. Harold reported that the problem needs to be redefined and there was much discussion from the members. Cris Milligan read some words from Dr. Bose to the RSC.

“Our Tuition Waiver policy does not adequately address grant funded students. We either are in violation of A-21 or are going to be in violation A-21 if we are not consistent with awarding of Tuition waivers. We are not capturing, as a research expenditure, the tuition from grants. We should not be billing some grants and waiving others that can be billed. Dr. Bose proposes that tuition for grant funded students be charged to all grants. If the granting agency doesn’t fund the tuition we will bill the tuition waiver to the matching fund (UH funding). If the granting agency will fund the tuition then we will bill the tuition waiver to the grant. This will allow us to capture the research expenditure (for tuition) and will allow us to recoup funds that will go back into further research support”.

Benchmarking needs to be done and DOR will assist with this. There was a question about whether or not fees could be separated from tuition re different sources of funding. Fees are an issue for the faculty because they are almost as much as the tuition. Each college treats this differently. Next meeting there should be a draft of this policy or the issues.

Internal Awards: Dr. Garson announced that we have received 4 GEAR proposals to date. He also reported that all of the New Faculty Award proposals could be funded. He asked that the RSC approve the list. Dr. Lee moved to approve the list and Dr. Sharma seconded. The motion passed. These will be announced immediately.

New Business: Dr. Bensaoula asked about non-UH owned equipment on campus. Beverly indicated that most non-UH owned equipment was covered by some form of agreement.

Meeting adjourned at 3:00 p.m.