

**Present:** George Zouridakis, Richard Bond, Vallabh Das (alternate for Alan Burns), Alessandro Carrera, Wynne Chin, Stuart Dryer, Randy Lee, Jay Neal, Clayton Neighbors, Ezemenari Obasi, Robert Palmer, Christie Peters, Gregg Roman, Luis Torres, Maria Bondesson, Mary Ann Ottinger, Jonathan Snow, Cris Milligan, Ben Mull, Beverly Rymer, Pam Muscarello, Ashley Merwin, Rozlyn Reep

**Absent:** Alan Burns, Allan Jacobson, Stuart Long, Gregory Marinic, Shin-Shem Steven Pei, Pradeep Sharma, Gangbing Song, Michael Zvolensky

Welcome by the Chair: Dr. Zouridakis welcomed everyone to the meeting at 1:35 PM. He thanked Dr. Fletcher for his work with the RSC over the past several years. He welcomed Dr. Chin, Faculty Senate President and Dr. Snow, Faculty Senate President-Elect to the meeting. He invited Dr. Chin to address the committee.

Dr. Chin told the committee that he and Dr. Snow have been attending various committee meetings. They would like to discuss issues at the upcoming Faculty Senate Retreat and RSC members are welcome to attend. The Retreat will be on April 27<sup>th</sup> starting at 8:30 AM with breakfast and ending at 4:00 PM. Members can attend all day or half a day. He will be emailing everyone about various topics. Some topics will include the bylaws and restructuring.

Approval of the March Minutes: Dr. Zouridakis asked the committee if they had any changes to the meeting minutes. Dr. Palmer made a motion to approve and Dr. Lee seconded. The meeting minutes were approved.

Status Report: Dr. Zouridakis asked Dr. Ottinger if she could give the committee an update on behalf of DOR since Dr. Krishnamoorti, Acting VC/VP for Research and Tech Transfer was unable to attend.

Dr. Ottinger informed the committee that she talked with Dr. Krishnamoorti and he is planning to attend the RSC Retreat on May 14<sup>th</sup>. She also gave a brief update on the ADVANCE grant. The University hosted a workshop with postdocs from partner institutions and brought in Dr. Donna Dean from NIH as a keynote. A faculty session was held that morning and there were a number of panel discussions throughout the day. The purpose of the ADVANCE grant and ARN network is to have key techniques, tools and discussions to help postdocs move into faculty jobs. The hope is that materials are made across campus that can be used by everyone. Dr. Ottinger co-chairs the ADVANCE Grant Recruiting and Retention Committee with Dr. Lawrence Pinsky.

Subcommittee Reports:

**New Faculty/SGP:** Dr. Obasi stated the primary concern for subcommittee review was the 5 year requirement for Small Grants. The guidelines currently state that

applicants who received previous SGP funding must wait 5 years before reapplying. The subcommittee outlined a possible compromise of 5 years to a 3 year timeline with a caveat: if someone needs to apply within 3 years they can obtain a letter from their Dean.

They also suggested modifying the application to include impact and deliverables from awards.

Dr. Dryer said the reason for the 5 year rule was to spread the wealth around. If people most affected by the rule thought it was a better way, he was ok with it.

Dr. Obasi mentioned one more recommendation which was a change to the deadline. The subcommittee suggested an October 1<sup>st</sup> deadline for submissions.

Dr. Ottinger suggested that any changes to the guidelines be made in the spring for a smooth transition into the fall. Dr. Zouridakis seconded and advised that changes to the guidelines be made before the summer.

The RSC agreed to the recommendations as well as the timeline for updates to the guidelines.

Dr. Obasi mentioned another idea for the Small Grants Program. Out of all of the applications they received, they accepted about 95% of them. Instead of offering a \$3,000 award, offer \$5000 so higher quality proposals will be funded. So instead of funding 95%, about 65% will be funded.

Dr. Neighbors asked how many awards were made. Dr. Obasi replied 28 out of 30. Dr. Zouridakis asked if it made sense to increase the amount of the award. Dr. Palmer stated he would like some discretion, and that it might make sense to give a flat \$5000 to a certain level and \$3000 to another. Ms. Milligan suggested funding proposals they feel are worthy, and remaining funds could go towards next year's allocation.

Dr. Obasi said faculty may feel \$3000 is not enough and decide not to apply, but may apply for a higher amount. Dr. Dryer asked if it would be better to have an "up to" \$5,000 request, and based on the proposal, decide whether it's worth less than \$5,000.

Dr. Zouridakis asked the subcommittee if there was concern about the quality of the proposals that were funded and that this might be a consideration for next year.

Dr. Ottinger stated that CLASS had an NEH workshop that produced a lot of interest in funding. As a result, there's additional pressure from CLASS for funds and there may be more proposals in the fall from CLASS. Dr. Obasi stated that the funding mechanism should include all colleges.

Dr. Zouridakis asked Ms. Milligan if there was a guarantee of funds being able to transfer to the next year. Ms. Milligan replied yes.

There was a recommendation that the subcommittee: 1) not be obligated to fund certain proposals; 2) be able to fund up to \$5,000; 3) transfer any remaining funds to the following year. Dr. Dryer made a motion to approve and it was seconded. The recommendation was approved.

**Excellence:** Dr. Neighbors reported that during review there was a three way tie for the professor level, but they were able to make a final decision. The winners include:

- Daniel Frigo, Assistant Professor, Biology and Biochemistry
- Christy Mag Uidhir, Assistant Professor, Philosophy
- Candice Alfano, Associate Professor, Psychology
- Zhu Han, Associate Professor, Electrical and Computer Engineering
- Bruno Breitmeyer, Professor, Psychology
- Dan Graur, Professor, Biology and Biochemistry

Dr. Zouridakis asked if there were any changes to the guidelines. Dr. Neighbors said no changes were needed.

Ms. Milligan brought up the question of compliance checks for internal awards. She said there are currently no checks and balances for compliance and no repository for everyone to go into a system and view information. Dr. Zouridakis asked if they need to find out if there's a better way for submissions. Ms. Milligan said she heard faculty do not like using RAMP, and does not want to make a suggestion that faculty won't like.

There was a discussion about what internal awards are submitted through RAMP and only the Small Grants program uses this process.

Dr. Ottinger explained the current process and suggested tabling this question for a future meeting to allow DOR time to develop a submission process for RSC review.

**GEAR:** Dr. Roman reported that his subcommittee met and reviewed 23 proposals. After discussion, they ranked the proposals and 9 were selected for funding.

The subcommittee felt the winning proposals were highly meritorious grants. DOR budgeted \$250,000 for GEAR. The subcommittee recommended that Dr. Leasure's proposal, which requested \$13,000, receive an additional \$6,142 - the remaining amount left for the GEAR fund. A motion to accept the recommendation for the project supplemental was made by Dr. Dryer. Dr. Torres seconded. The recommendation was approved.

Dr. Lee informed the committee that GEAR evaluations were made independent of NSM rankings.

Dr. Roman said one item the subcommittee discussed was allowing colleges to decide on pre-proposal format. They will formalize the idea and put together a draft for review.

**Centers:** Dr. Zouridakis reported that his subcommittee has two main objectives: review annual reports from centers and discuss redefining research clusters. Center reports are still under review and DOR is working to make guidelines for clusters based on state regulations. Dr. Ottinger invited Dr. Mull to talk about the cluster issue since he's working on some of the clusters. Dr. Mull told the committee he is currently working with Ms. Nancy Ward in DOR on clusters. Every year NSF requires a report and he's trying to figure out how to get it nested in a way that's workable. Dr. Zouridakis said RSC will wait to hear the outcome to consider the revision of the clusters.

**Core Facilities:** Dr. Lee gave a report on behalf of Dr. Burns. He stated Dr. Ottinger and Dr. Burns were forwarding comments to Dr. Meen regarding his proposal. A notice will be sent out announcing the new deadline for Core proposals. Dr. Zouridakis asked if the guidelines needed any changes and Dr. Lee said "no". Dr. Lee asked if the amount was the same and Dr. Ottinger responded yes, to our understanding.

Dr. Ottinger told the committee she serves on GCC (Gulf Coast Consortium). They just received a draft MOU to share Core Facilities, which means they would be available to GCC at internal rates. She will further investigate the MOU and keep everyone updated.

Dr. Dryer said anything she could do to facilitate an agreement would be great.

Dr. Lee said there are rules and regulations regarding internal and external rates. Dr. Ottinger said GCC is developing this MOU agreement.

**ACO User Advisory Group:** Dr. Bond said the group has made progress. There was an issue regarding metabolic cages. DOR agreed to pay 2/3 of the cost.

**Research Misconduct Policy:** Dr. Palmer said the policy was submitted and is now complete.

**Publication Costs:** Dr. Roman reported his subcommittee has been looking at open access policies for the University. Most research universities have policies and funds in place to help faculty. Ms. Peters put forward a survey that week to try to assess the level of knowledge and engagement of the faculty in open access publishing. They are engaging in a benchmarking study to see what policies are at different

universities. Dr. Zouridakis asked if it was an ongoing process. Dr. Roman stated yes, and they should have preliminary data and recommendations at the next meeting.

**Conflict of Interest:** No update.

**Intellectual Property:** Dr. Palmer said he was appointed to the IP Committee then Dr. Fletcher found out about the bylaws. Dr. Chin said he thinks it's a non-issue and that there will be a RSC representative for the IP Committee.

New Business:

**TRIP Guidelines:** Dr. Zouridakis reported there's an issue with the TRIP guidelines. Apparently there are multiple versions. He heard people are not happy because the guidelines are conflicting. He opened the floor for comments or suggestions.

Dr. Lee stated the momentum for dissatisfaction arose when his college approached the Welch Foundation about a matching gift. Because it was over \$2 million, they could not get a match. Dr. Fletcher seems to know the most about matching funds and Dr. Lee would like for him to lead a task force on this issue. Dr. Zouridakis said he would like for departments to be included as well. Dr. Lee said the issue should be discussed with Drs. Fletcher and Krishnamoorti, and asked if the task force could advise more broadly than the VP for Research. Dr. Chin said yes, and that the issue could be presented to the Faculty Senate. Dr. Zouridakis said the task force should involve DOR, RSC, and Advancement.

Dr. Lee made a motion to nominate Dr. Fletcher as Chair of the task force. The motion passed. Dr. Zouridakis will ask Dr. Fletcher to have a list of committee members by the RSC Retreat.

Old Business:

**Provost's Memo:** Dr. Lee said his subcommittee had a meeting scheduled with Dr. Litvinov but unfortunately it was cancelled. He is in the process of scheduling another meeting.

**Audit Violations:** Dr. Zouridakis said an email with audit violations was distributed. The information was very clear.

**Survey of Faculty on DOR Operations:** Dr. Chin said due to delays, they'll hold off on a survey until the fall and he'll schedule a meeting with Dr. Krishnamoorti.

New Business Continued:

Dr. Ottinger told members they are invited to meet Dr. Donna Dean, who is the keynote speaker for the ARN Workshop event.

Dr. Zouridakis asked members to send him items for the RSC Retreat. He will also be using a central email address for RSC Chairs in order to establish an archive record.

Dr. Palmer made a motion to adjourn. Dr. Torres seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 2:55 PM.