

## **Minutes of the Research and Scholarship Committee:**

September 14, 2012

Present: Frederick Lopez, Pradeep Sharma, Mike Harold, Alessandro Carrera, Jack Fletcher, Randall Lee, Stuart Dryer, Alan Burns, Vincent Tam, George Zouridakis, Abdelhak Bensaoula, Allan Jacobson, Stuart Long, Anne Sherman, Selesta Hodge, Kirstin Rochford, Maribel Salazar, Beverly Rymer, Mark Clarke, and Christie Peters.

Absent: Matthew Johnson, Wynne Chin, Haluk Ogmen, Robert Palmer, Dmitri Litvinov, and Rathindra Bose.

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

Chair Report: Dr. Lee welcomed everyone to the first RSC meeting of FY2013. Introductions of all attendees were made. Dr. Lee thanked members of the DOR staff who had assisted him during the summer. Dr. Lee pointed out that there are vacant RSC positions in CLASS, GCSW, HRM, and NSM and that elections will be held and new members announced by October 15, 2012.

Review and Approval of Minutes from May 4, 2012 Retreat: Dr. Zouridakis made a motion to approve the minutes, and Dr. Tam seconded. The motion carried.

Election of Vice Chair: Dr. Lee nominated Dr. Mike Harold to be Vice Chair for this coming year. Dr. Fletcher seconded the motion. There were no other nominations, and the motion passed.

### **2013 Issues for RSC to Address and Assignment of Subcommittee members:**

Tobacco Policy: Kirstin Rochford made a statement on behalf of Dr. Bose indicating that while the current interim policy for a smoke-free campus is very broad and requires significant review by many UH parties; in order to ensure compliance with research sponsor requirements (specifically CPRIT at this time), the Research MAPP and SAM will be updated to include a general statement that we will comply with all sponsor requirements for a tobacco-free workplace in or near buildings on campus where relevant sponsored research is conducted.

Centers and Institutes: Jack Fletcher, Allan Jacobson, Haluk Ogmen, George Zouridakis, and Robert Palmer. Dr. Lee charged the subcommittee with developing guidelines for closing centers and offering specific guidelines to the colleges and departments. Dr. Lee asked Maribel Salazar to organize a meeting of this subcommittee before the next RSC meeting. This subcommittee will also review the consortium policy. Dr. Bose would like to include specific items that a consortium proposal should contain. These proposals will be sent to Dr. Bose for approval.

Innovation Summit/Intellectual Property: Dr. Mark Clarke described how the summit will be used to generate IP on campus, as well as focusing on our significant technology portfolio and recognizing our current inventors. He is also looking for a "big name" speaker for the summit and asked for suggestions. Dr. Harold asked if the revenues are being reinvested back into research, and Dr. Clarke

indicated that this is the policy. Dr. Tam asked about the percentage of faculty that generate IP, and Dr. Clarke said that he would share the statistics. The Chancellor will use some of these statistics in her Fall address. A representation from the RSC is needed on the Intellectual Property Committee and Dr. Lee suggested that the open NSM position could be that representative.

Rework IDC Distribution Policy: The Subcommittee on Resources and Core Facilities will look at this policy. It was acknowledged that colleges and departments all have different policies. Dr. Sharma pointed out that a Tier One university should be returning some IDC to the PIs. Dr. Dryer said that this would diffuse the frustration among faculty. The concept of "hoarding the funds by the PIs" was brought up by Dr. Long. He believes that there should be some way to make the PIs use the funds rather than hoarding them. Dr. Dryer said that there is no "bridge funding" available, and that is why the PIs hoard the funds. The Subcommittee will look at all of the issues and draft a policy. It was agreed that not everyone would be happy with the policy.

Resources and Core Facilities: Subcommittee members are: Randy Lee, Alan Burns, Jack Fletcher, Mike Harold, and Vincent Tam. Dr. Lee indicated that needs should be identified and supported, and that we need an accurate inventory of major equipment/facilities on campus. Cris Milligan is working on this. Dr. Jacobson pointed out that there are two kinds of facilities: (1) service recharge centers only and (2) those that train students. Dr. Harold pointed out that it appears that if the University provides cost-sharing for equipment, the equipment then becomes part of a core facility. The core facility proposal has been announced and proposals are due by October 1.

Subcommittee for Research Excellence Awards: Stuart Dryer, Stuart Long, Frederick Lopez, Vincent Tam, and the open CLASS position.

Subcommittee for GEAR: Alan Burns, Gemunu Gunaratne, Frederick Lopez, Pradeep Sharma, and George Zouridakis.

Subcommittee for New Faculty and Small Grants Programs: A. Bensaoula, Alessandro Carrera, Haluk Ogmen, open GCSW position, and open HRM position.

RSC Representative to the Conflict of Interest Committee: Dr. Lee suggested Robert Palmer.

Subcommittee to Update RSC Bylaws: Dr. Lee suggested Matthew Johnson as the Chair.

### **Old Business:**

Tuition Support for Graduate Students: It was the goal to implement this policy by September 1. Dr. Bose has met with the Provost and with Dr. Stuart Hall regarding the overall concept of creating separate fund cost centers for the colleges. All agreed that this could be accomplished. Discussion about the details is yet to be completed. Beverly Rymer handed out the update, and it is attached to these minutes.

Research Assessment: Dr. Haluk Ogmen was unable to attend the meeting and provide an update.

**New Business:**

Internal Awards: Proposed dates were submitted to the RSC for consideration. Dr. Dryer made a motion to accept these, and Dr. Zouridakis seconded. The motion was passed, and these are included as an attachment to these minutes.

Balance between Strict Safety Regulations and Ability to Conduct Research: The cost of renovations to meet these regulations is significant. It was suggested that Melissa Rockwell be invited to one of our meetings to address the cost issue and the timing issue.

Personal/Vacation Days while Drawing Summer Salary, Related to Travel: Faculty do not accrue vacation, and this presents a problem when faculty take vacation while being paid on a project. The Faculty Senate is looking into this issue, as well as travel rules and regulations, which was also discussed.

Faculty Consulting: It was acknowledged that the faculty handbook indicates that it is an average of 1 day per week and the MAPP needs to be reconciled to match the faculty handbook.

Motion to adjourn the meeting by Dr. Harold and seconded by Dr. Dryer. The motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

**The next meeting will be on Friday, October 19, 2012, same location from 1:30-3:00 p.m.**

## ISSUES SURROUNDING THE PAYMENT OF GRADUATE TUITION AND FEES

### **Issue 1: Consistent Treatment of Costs**

OMB A-21 Section D. Direct Costs states "Costs incurred for the same purpose in like circumstances must be treated *consistently* as either direct or F&A costs."

OMB A-21 Section J.45.a states that "tuition remission and others forms of compensation paid as, or in lieu of, wages to students performing necessary work are allowable provided that:

- 1) Individual is conducting activities necessary to the sponsored agreement;
- 2) Tuition remission and other support are provided in accordance with established educational institutional policy and consistently provided in a like manner to students in return for similar activities conducted in non-sponsored as well as sponsored activities."

UH is not currently treating masters and doctoral students the same. Beginning in FY2012, funds were available to pay tuition and fees for Ph.D. students, but not for master's students.

Dr. Hall confirmed that both masters and doctoral students, if qualified, can receive the tuition reimbursement offered by the colleges and departments. The issue of who gets it is based on the availability of funding. As it is, the doctoral students who are teaching usually are given top priority.

### **Issue 2: Capturing of Research Expenditures**

OMB A-21 Section B1.b states "Organized research means all research and development activities of an institution that are separately budgeted and accounted for. It includes:

- 1) *Sponsored research* means all research and development activities that are sponsored by Federal and non-Federal agencies and organizations. This term includes activities involving the training of individuals in research techniques (commonly called research training) where such activities utilize the same facilities as other research and development activities and where such activities are not included in the instruction function.
- 2) *University research* means all research and development activities that are separately budgeted and accounted for by the institution under an internal application of institutional funds. University research, for purposes of this document, shall be combined with sponsored research under the function of organized research."

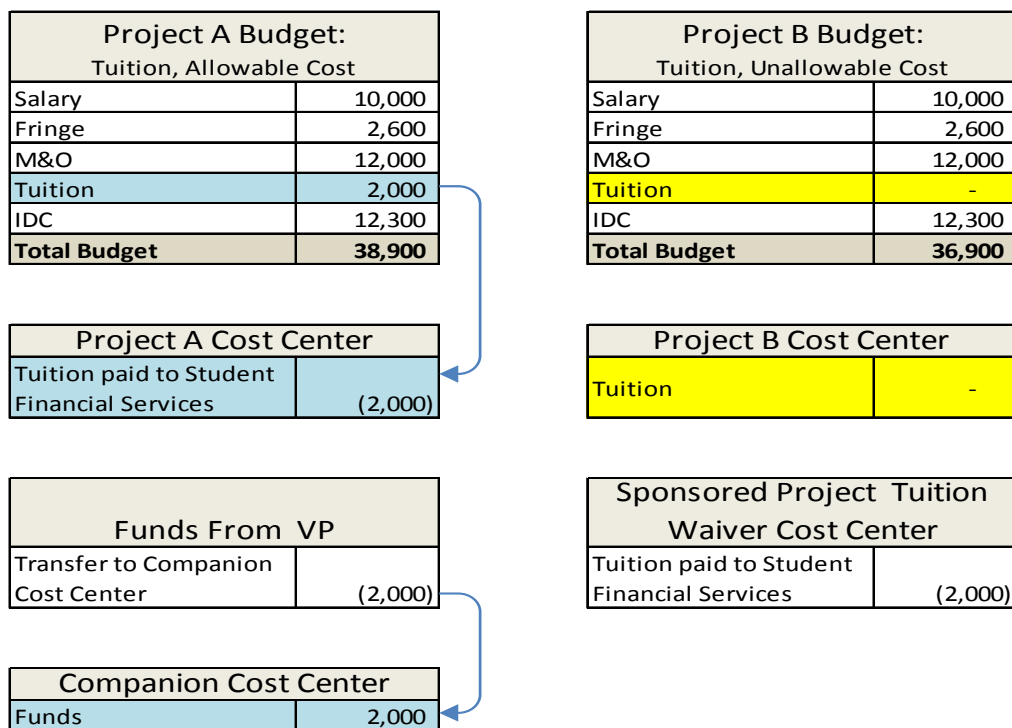
Dr. Bose met with Craig Ness and Dr. Stuart Hall. They discussed creating separate funds cost centers in the colleges for charging the tuition of GA/RA supported by a sponsored project cost center. Craig felt that this could be easily done in the near future. Dr. Hall agreed.

### **Issue 3: Losing competitive ground**

We looked at the schools that were suggested by the RSC and 7 out of 8 schools charge tuition and fees to sponsored projects. It appears that most institutions are charging these costs to sponsored projects. The institutions that were benchmarked are:

- 1) UT Austin
- 2) UT Dallas
- 3) Texas A&M
- 4) Texas Tech
- 5) Wayne State
- 6) Univ. of Alabama, Birmingham
- 7) Portland State
- 8) UCLA

Discussion about the pay-back of tuition to individual faculty members to reinvest in graduate student hire is still being discussed. Dr. Bose presented the following scenario:



(Student must qualify under university policies.)

**Issue 4: Loss of Graduate Students or Inability to Attract**

At UH, support is provided to colleges for TAs and if tuition and fees are not charged to sponsored projects, the colleges would have to use their TA funds for TAs and RAs and there would be less funds available for TAs. If student enrollment continues to increase, we will be able to attract more graduate students because of available of funds for TAs (through the college) and RAs (through sponsored funds).

**BUDGETING GRADUATE STUDENT FEES AND TUITION**

- If a graduate student is supported by a sponsored project, the cost of tuition and/or fees must to added to the budget or documented as cost sharing as separate line item. – **unless the sponsor specifically prohibits it.**
- These costs are waived from F&A.
- The budget justification should reflect that the cost is a benefit to the graduate student and describe how tuition and/or fees are estimated: the cost of tuition charged is the in-state rate and the fees are course and college fees only.

**CHARGING GRADUATE STUDENT TUITION AND FEES TO SPONSORED PROJECTS**

- For sponsors that explicitly disallow the charging of tuition and fees to their award, the tuition and fees should be paid by the "sponsored project Tuition Waiver cost center" in the college if the student meets the institutional eligibility.
- For all other sponsors, tuition should be charged as budgeted--either directly to the project or as cost sharing for the project.

**INTERNAL PROGRAMS SCHEDULE**

<i>Award</i>	<i>Program Announcement</i>	<i>Proposal Deadline</i>	<i>Winners Notified</i>	<i>Cost Centers Est.</i>	<i>RSC Subcommittee Members</i>
<b>Small Grants</b>	9/21/2012	11/9/2012	12/21/2012	1/11/2013	Bensaoula, Carrera, Ogmen, GCSW, HRM
<b>New Faculty Research Program Grants</b>	9/21/2012	11/9/2012	12/21/2012	1/11/2013	Bensaoula, Carrera, Ogmen, GCSW, HRM
<b>GEAR</b>	12/3/2012	2/1/2013	4/19/2013	5/3/2013	Burns, Gunaratne, Lopez, Sharma, Zouridakis
<b>Research Excellence Award</b>	12/3/2012	2/1/2013	4/19/2013	5/3/2013	Dryer, Lopez, Long, Tam, CLASS