

Minutes of the Research and Scholarship Committee:

October 19, 2012

Present: Pradeep Sharma, Haluk Ogmen, Mike Harold, Karl Titz, Alessandro Carrera, Robert Palmer, Gemunu Gunaratne, Randall Lee, Stuart Dryer, Jason Porter for Alan Burns, Vincent Tam, Luis Torres, George Zouridakis, Abdelhak Bensaoula, Dmitri Litvinov; ex officio members: Roth Bose, Mark Clarke, Anne Sherman, Selesta Hodge, Brooke Gowl, Maribel Salazar, Cris Milligan, Christie Peters and Stuart Hall.

Absent: Matthew Johnson, Wynne Chin, Frederick Lopez, Michael Zvolensky, Jack Fletcher, Allan Jacobson, Stuart Long.

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

Chair Report: Dr. Lee welcomed everyone to the second meeting of the RSC for FY13 and noted that there were four new RSC members: CLASS, Dr. Michael Zvolensky; GCSW, Dr. Luis Torres; HRM, Dr. Karl Titz; and NSM, Dr. Gemunu Gunaratne. Dr. Lee also discussed the fact that after he was voted RSC Chair, he was promoted to NSM's Associate Dean for Research. The Faculty Senate decided that the RSC should hold a special election for Chair because of this change, and Dr. Lee was re-elected Chair.

Review and approval of minutes from 9/14/2012 meeting: Dr. Dryer made a motion to approve the minutes and Dr. Harold seconded. The motion carried.

Election of Vice Chair: Dr. Lee requested that the election of Vice Chair, Dr. Michael Harold be reaffirmed by the RSC. Dr. Palmer made a motion to reaffirm Dr. Harold as Vice Chair, and Dr. Tam seconded. The motion carried.

Report by VP/VC Bose: Dr. Bose welcomed everyone for FY2013 and thanked the RSC members for their support and work in FY2012. Dr. Bose provided updates for the following items:

- AVPR hiring. He has re-advertised this position after re-forming the search committee. Dr. Litvinov will be chair. Dr. Bose wants to hire the right person, and this is taking some time.
- PHS/NIH issued new guidance on the disclosure of travel from outside support within the past few days. He is still reviewing the guidance and finds that it sometimes puts the University in a difficult position in that a faculty member might not have the details of these payments because the third party has arranged the travel details. We will come up with a plan to address these issues.
- From FY 11 to FY 12, research expenditures increased slightly. There were increased patent royalties as well.

- Regarding research space, he is working with fellow Vice Presidents to raise funds to build new buildings. There is a list of priorities, and Pharmacy is at the top. Dr. Bose wants to try to try to raise enough funds for two buildings.
- A-133 Audit by the State Auditor's Office is going fairly well. They are still requesting information and asking questions, but Dr. Bose feels that we will be alright in the end. He wants to thank all of the Directors, especially Beverly Rymer for their hard work.
- Innovation Summit Plans have been put on hold temporarily because we could not get a commitment from a high level speaker because of schedules and the election. We will continue planning it for the spring semester.
- Wish List for coming year:
 - Continue the good dialogue between his office and the RSC;
 - Centers and Institutes: Need clear guidance from the subcommittee on when to close and which should be classified as DOR, College, or Department. DOR recently completed a review of TLC2, and as a result, changes are being made. Dr. Bose appointed an external advisory committee as well as an internal advisory committee.
 - Dr. Bose wants to appoint a Task Force on IDC policy and wants there to be at least 2 RSC members on that task force. We have researched many US institutions, and the data will be provided to the task force for their use in evaluating potential policy changes.
 - Core Facility funds for this year are unknown at this time, but we received 14 proposals. Substantial discussion during the meeting led to the recommendation that all proposals should be reviewed by outside reviewers.
 - Tuition Waiver Policy: Dr. Stuart Hall attended this meeting to try to answer questions. Dr. Bose is ready to move forward with the policy, and Anne and Beverly are working to put something on the DOR website. During the discussion, many questions came into play, and we are having to re-examine the funding for it. We want to ensure that it does not conflict with DSTF policies. Dr. Hall indicated that we are trying to identify separate funds for this effort. The amount of funds that UH receives from the State for graduate students does not cover the actual cost. Dr. Dryer says he just want it to be clear about what we put into sponsor proposals. From a sponsored project view, tuition should only be included in the budget if the sponsor allows this type of expense.

October Subcommittee Reports:

Resources and Core Facilities: Subcommittee members are: Randy Lee, Alan Burns, Jack Fletcher, Mike Harold, Vincent Tam and Cris Milligan. It was decided that there would be no internal triage and only an external review of Core Facilities proposals. It is anticipated that funding should be known next year, and the proposals that are chosen will be funded by 9/1/2013. PIs of the fourteen proposals will be asked for suggested reviewers.

Centers and Institutes: Subcommittee members are: Jack Fletcher, Allan Jacobson, Haluk Ogmen, George Zouridakis, Robert Palmer and Cris Milligan. Dr. Lee charged the subcommittee with developing guidelines for closing centers and offering specific guidelines to the colleges. The proposed policies will be sent to Dr. Bose for approval and implementation.

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 to be on this committee.

New Faculty/Small Grants Program: Subcommittee members are: Abdelhak Bensaoula, Alessandro Carrera, Haluk Ogmen, Karl Titz and Luis Torres.

Update RSC Bylaws: Need ad hoc subcommittee. (Matthew Johnson?)

Conflict of Interest and Compliance: Robert Palmer volunteered to be the RSC representative on the COI committee.

Intellectual Property Committee: Stuart Dryer volunteered to be the RSC representative on the IP committee.

Old Business:

Tuition Waiver Policy: See Dr. Bose's comments above.

Research Assessment: Dr. Lee requested that Dr. Ogmen send the assessment information via email to the RSC membership.

New Business:

Support of Research Facilities: See Dr. Bose's comments above.

Balance between strict safety regulations and ability to conduct research: No action at this meeting.

Personal/vacation days while drawing summer salary, related to travel: The Provost has created a Task Force for this subject.

Vacation and sick day accrual: No action at this meeting.

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

Meeting adjourned at 3:04 p.m.

The next meeting will be on Friday, November 16, 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."

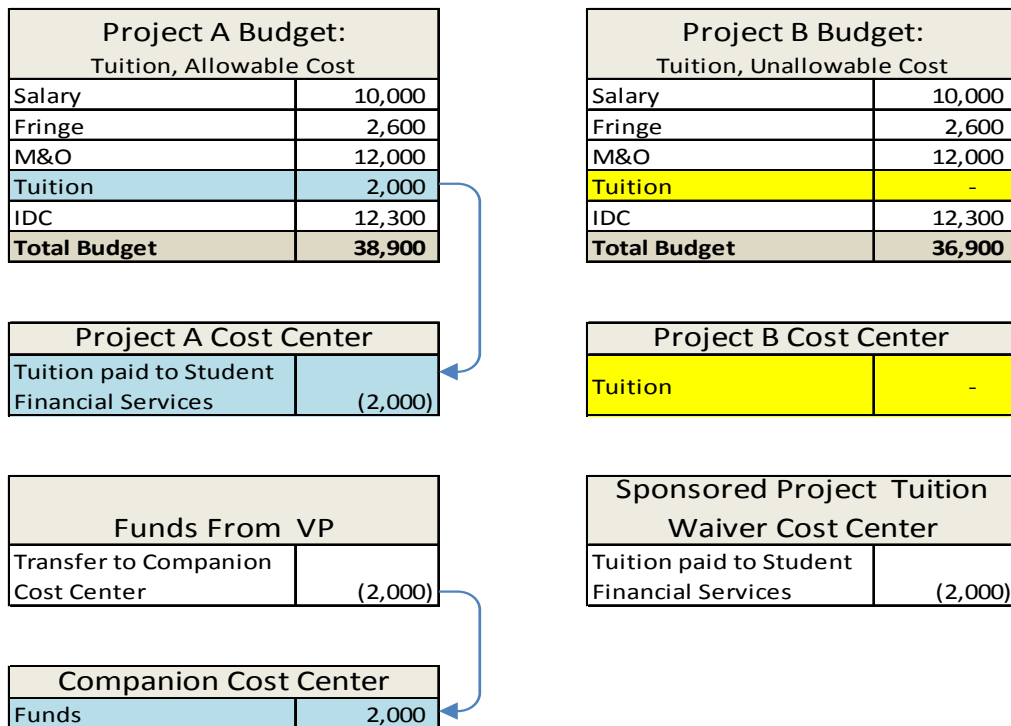
Dr. Bose met with Craig Ness and Dr. Stuart Hall. They discussed creating separate funds cost centers in the colleges for charging the tuition of GA/RA supported by a sponsored project cost center. Craig felt that this could be easily done in the near future. Dr. Hall agreed.

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>
Small Grants	9/21/2012	11/9/2012	12/21/2012	1/11/2013	Bensaoula, Carrera, Ogmen, GCSW, HRM
New Faculty Research Program Grants	9/21/2012	11/9/2012	12/21/2012	1/11/2013	Bensaoula, Carrera, Ogmen, GCSW, HRM
GEAR	12/3/2012	2/1/2013	4/19/2013	5/3/2013	Burns, Gunaratne, Lopez, Sharma, Zouridakis
Research Excellence Award	12/3/2012	2/1/2013	4/19/2013	5/3/2013	Dryer, Long, Lopez, Tam, CLASS