

Research and Scholarship Committee: November 18, 2011

Present: Pradeep Sharma, Haluk Ogmen, Stowe Shoemaker, James Garson, Robert Palmer, Janok Bhattacharya, Randall Lee, Jason Porter for Alan Burns, Fred Lopez, Vincent Tam, Gemunu Gunaratne, Ray Cline, Abdelhak Bensaoula, Stuart Long, Dmitri Litvinov, Rathindra Bose, Anne Sherman and Selesta Hodge.

Absent: Chinhui Juhn, Jack Fletcher, Matthew Johnson, Wynne Chin, Michael Harold, Coleen Carlson.

Guests: C. Peters.

The meeting started at 1:30 p.m. Dr. Bhattacharya, Chair, welcomed the members. The minutes from the 10/21/11 meeting were reviewed and Dr. Lee moved to approve the minutes and Dr. Tam seconded. The motion passed.

Dr. Bhattacharya reported that he and Dr. Bose will be meeting prior to each RSC meeting, unless schedules do not permit. The topics covered include, but are not limited to: What is expected from the RSE and how the RSC can assist in improving the research climate at UH. Dr. Bhattacharya asked that the RSC members keep sending emails regarding comments, progress and current projects.

Report from Dr. Bose, Vice President/Vice Chancellor for Research and Technology Transfer: Dr. Bose reported that the total research expenditures for last fiscal year were \$120,499,187. This is up from 2010; however, 2011 external funding is down and this will affect the 2012 research expenditures. Proposals were down in 2011. Tech transfer revenue is about \$9m and we are #1 in the State for ROI. He made a presentation to the Board of Regents giving a detail plan on enhancing tech transfer activities. It was well received and he will share this presentation at the December 14 meeting of the Faculty Senate.

Dr. Bose indicated that we have an urgent matter regarding the new conflict of interest (COI) policy that has been issued by NIH. It contains requirements, such as changing the level of reporting from \$10,000 to \$5,000, required training for faculty, travel reporting, etc. Dr. Bose asked the RSC to review it and to provide input. This will be sent to the RSC.

He is committed to investing in faculty and the infrastructure that is needed for a first-class research faculty. He meets month with faculty across many disciplines regarding core facilities. Faculty recognition is important and we need to develop a method to do this. Also, UH needs to increase our royalty income and he will be talking with faculty about that.

Provost Space Report: Dr. David Francis was not available to present. Dr. Litvinov indicated that the report provides information about what is going on in the colleges and non-controversial suggestions and general guidelines. We need to get the report and ask the RSC to review and comment. There are many complex issues that need to be addressed. Dr. Lee suggested that the RSC form a subcommittee to create rules or guidelines to advise Dr. Bose.

Core Facilities Mandate: Dr. Bose reported that we have \$15m over 3 years. It was suggested that an RFP to build or fund a core facility be issued. The RSC Resources subcommittee would develop guidelines. Dr. Bose indicated that proposed projects must include multi-PIs and be multi-disciplinary. Proposals would be requested and then funding priorities set.

Internal Awards: Dr. Garson described the process for the selection of the Small and New Faculty grants. There is a subcommittee comprised of Drs. Garson, Juhn, Fletcher, Bensaoula, Gunaratne and Shoemaker. Three will review the CLASS proposals and three will review the Other proposals. Selections will be made at a meeting in mid-December. It was pointed out that Librarians need to be included in the eligibility; however, this discussion was tabled for next year, since the process had already begun.

There was a lengthy discussion about how the GEAR selection process should occur. The goal of the GEAR grants, “can proposal be leveraged into sponsor funding?”, was emphasized. After much discussion, it was decided that we would build a mechanism to create a pool of potential fundable proposals, each of which would be vetted through the College level. The final selection would be through the process defined by the GEAR committee. The basis for the pool would be the following: Each college will be allowed at least one candidate, and some colleges will be allowed more than one candidate based on their proportion of IDC generated in the last reporting period. The estimated number of proposals to select from will be 24, and it may be less if there are no applications sent forward in one or more of the colleges.

There were two items that were tabled until next meeting: Research Assessment and Research Faculty Report.

Meeting adjourned at 3:00.

Next meeting will be Friday, December 16, 2011, 1:30-3:00 p.m., Faculty Senate Conference Room