

RSC Committee Meeting:

December 20, 2013

Present: Michael Harold, Wynne Chin, Ezemenari Obasi, Haluk Ogmen, Gangbing Song, Stuart Long, Michael Zvolensky, Alessandro Carrera, Jack Fletcher, Gregg Roman, T. Randall Lee, Alan Burns, Luis Torres, Allan Jacobson, Abdelhak Bensaoula, Patrick Bordnick, Roth Bose, Mark Clarke Mary Ann Ottinger, Selestia Hodge, Cris Milligan, Brooke Gowl, Ashley Merwin, Rozlyn Reep

Absent: Gregory Marinic, Pradeep Sharma, Maria Solino, Karl Titz, Robert Palmer, Stuart Dryer, Richard Bond, George Zouridakis, Jacqueline Hawkins, Christie Peters

The Chair called the meeting to order at 1:34 pm.

Welcome by the Chair: Dr. Harold welcomed everyone to the meeting. He started the meeting by saying he appreciates the subcommittees' efforts during this busy time.

Status Report by VC/VP Dr. Bose:

- People in NSM may be concerned about the effects of upcoming power outages on their equipment. Cris Milligan has been working very hard on this issue and the outage has been delayed to late January or February. Cris will send out a notification regarding the outage so everyone can prepare.
- The federal government has issued new guidelines and regulations. These guidelines have a number of implications for grants and contract administration. Implementation will take about 9 months. Changes pertaining to grant administration will require preparation, so Dr. Bose has asked his Pre-Award & Post-Award staff to attend a webinar workshop and they are working through the OMB guidelines.
- Dr. Bose expressed his thanks and appreciation to the Research and Scholarship Committee for all of their hard work.

Dr. Harold stated to the committee that he would like to celebrate Dr. Chin's recent successes and asked Dr. Chin to share with everyone his achievement. Dr. Chin told everyone he was inducted as a fellow in his academy (they only induct two individuals from the U.S.)

Subcommittee Updates:

Excellence & Research: Dr. Lee reported that his subcommittee generated new forms for the Research and Excellence Award. Upon review of the handout, Dr. Lee requested that the title's size and font be changed. He also stated that Dr. Bond suggested they change the order of wording for a sentence on the nomination form. He requested that the wording be changed from "the department, the university and field" to "the field, the university, and the department."

Dr. Fletcher recalled the committee voting to increase the Teaching award to \$10,000. Dr. Lee said he recalls the Committee changing the level 2 years ago from \$5,000 to \$8,000.

Dr. Harold requested a motion to vote on the recommended change to the nomination form. Dr. Roman made the motion and Dr. Fletcher seconded. The motion to change the order of wording passed.

Dr. Lee will update the nomination form and find out what the amount is for the Teaching Award. Subsequent review showed that Dr. Lee was correct and the amount is \$8,000 for both types of awards.

New Faculty/Small Grants

Dr. Torres reported that Small Grants received over 50 applicants and New Faculty about 30 applicants. The committee will be able to select about 30 Small Grants and 25 New Faculty proposals for funding. The subcommittee was still in the process of reviewing proposals and informed applicants of the delay. Dr. Torres stated that issues have emerged during the review process and his subcommittee will discuss changes for future guidelines.

GEAR Program

Dr. Ogmen reported that the GEAR Program has been officially announced and the forms are on the website. He met with Associate Deans at different colleges and asked what their review process should be for proposals. Once the colleges decide their review process, information will be posted on the DOR website. Dr. Ogmen also received expenditure data in order to determine the number of slots for each college. His subcommittee recalculated the slots and NSM, ENG, and Optometry now have 1 additional slot (compared to last year). Dr. Ogmen requested that the committee vote to approve the slot allocations.

Dr. Harold stated that the budget for this year is \$250,000.

Dr. Ogmen mentioned receiving feedback from his meeting with the Associate Deans. They said they like the GEAR Program and would like to see more funding go towards it.

Dr. Fletcher said he was at a meeting where faculty members asked for a definition of the \$50,000 startup package. They wanted to know if the amount included summer salary. Dr. Ogmen said it was his understanding that summer salary was excluded.

Dr. Harold asked the committee for a vote to approve or not approve the subcommittee's proposed formula for slot allocation. All members were in favor and the suggested formula was approved.

Centers & Institutes

Dr. Fletcher reported that his subcommittee had 1 proposal to bring to a vote. The proposal was for CNRCS (Center for Nuclear Receptors and Cell Signaling). Dr. Ogmen presented the report.

The center was established 5 years ago as a department center in Biology & Biochemistry. Last year they submitted a proposal to become a University center, but the proposal was incomplete. The committee asked for additional information and the proposal was resubmitted this year.

The subcommittee looked for strengths and weaknesses. Dr. Ogmen highlighted two of the weaknesses. 1.) How members are recruited. 2.) Finances. He reported that the center is asking for a significant amount of contributions from the University and the University has committed funds to the center. According to the subcommittee, the request for additional funds speaks to the center's difficulty to establish independence and the total IDC generated to date is not proportional to the level of support the center has already received.

Dr. Bose told the committee they should not be concerned about IDC since there is an IDC task force. He also stated that the center is not self-sustaining at this point, but does not think there is anything at the University that is self-sustaining. He believes you need to look at a center's contributions to the University. He would like for the committee to consider their impact and asks that they compare their center with others.

Dr. Fletcher said CNRCS simply answered questions the subcommittee asked and needed to give the committee a complete proposal. Dr. Harold suggested that finances including grant leveraging and IDC return is valid information to be considered by the RSC when evaluating center proposals.

Dr. Bose recommended that the committee give the center a chance to provide a full proposal and the RSC concurred. Dr. Fletcher will send the initial report to the CNRSC and ask for a complete report.

Dr. Fletcher reported that his subcommittee also evaluated a proposal for the Airborne Lasers Group. He said it was an excellent proposal and the center has support from an NSF grant. The center is strong; however, they have some concerns regarding their budget proposal which is not clear. The subcommittee would like to ask them to revise the proposal for consideration at the next meeting.

Dr. Fletcher will send Cris Milligan an updated document on Review Procedures for Centers & Institutes.

Resources & Core Facilities

Dr. Burns reported that his subcommittee updated the guidelines for Core Facilities. They were originally written by Dr. Lee and the biggest changes were made to the review process. Dr. Bose has reviewed the guidelines and is comfortable with the changes.

Cris Milligan requested that item "C" say "commercial/external suppliers". Dr. Burns agreed with the suggestion. Ms. Milligan also suggested one paper copy and digital copies for submitting proposals. Dr. Torres mentioned Sharepoint or perhaps another method for submissions. Dr. Ottinger said she will look into what digital media can be used.

The committee discussed moving the proposal deadline to April 1st and the decision notification to June 15th. The phrase "pending of available funds" will also be changed. Dr. Harold asked for a vote on the Core Facility guidelines with the amendments. It was approved.

Once the documents are updated, Dr. Burns will send them to Cris Milligan.

Conflict of Interest & Compliance

Dr. Burns stated that they are working on the same forms and are still going through the regular process of review. There were no changes to report.

Intellectual Property Committee

Dr. Clarke reported there was no IP meeting in December. They will be running a class during the summer session. He requested that everyone encourage their students to attend.

Old Business

Dr. Harold said the HR Director, Joan Nelson, will be tabled for the next meeting since she was unable to attend.

Vacation & Sick Leave

Dr. Ottinger reported that individuals funded by the state will draw money from a pool that has been set up. Dr. Harold asked about the timing for this policy and Dr. Ottinger said she was told it will be soon in the New Year.

Software Licenses

Dr. Harold said there was no report and that this will be a project for the beginning of next year.

Dr. Fletcher stated he was still working on the Classification of Research assignment.

Dr. Harold said there was nothing to report until the next meeting in regards to the IDC Distribution Policy.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:38 pm.

The next meeting will be on Friday, January 17, same location from 1:30-3:00 pm.