

**Present:** George Zouridakis, Jack Fletcher, Richard Bond, Alessandro Carrera, Wynne Chin, Stuart Dryer, Allan Jacobson, Randy Lee, Stuart Long, Clayton Neighbors, Christie Peters, Gangbing Song, Marie Bondesson, Jonathan Snow, Earl Smith, Ramanan Krishnamoorti, Richard Willson, Mary Ann Ottinger, Cris Milligan, Pam Muscarello, Courtney Donica, Brooke Gowl, Ashley Merwin, Rozlyn Reep

**Absent:** Alan Burns, Gregory Marinic, Jay Neal, Ezemenari Obasi, Robert Palmer, Shin-Shem Steven Pei, Gregg Roman, Pradeep Sharma, Luis Torres, Michael Zvolensky

Welcome by the Chair: Dr. Zouridakis welcomed everyone to the RSC Retreat at 12:17 PM. He thanked everyone for coming and mentioned that there were a number of conflicts due to graduation; perhaps next year's Retreat should be a week before or after graduation.

Dr. Zouridakis welcomed Drs. Earl Smith, Wynne Chin, and Ramanan Krishnamoorti to the meeting and asked Dr. Chin for his comments as President of the Faculty Senate.

Dr. Chin thanked Dr. Zouridakis and gave the following update:

- In order to establish a more efficient infrastructure, the Faculty Senate is establishing email addresses for chairs of committees so that communications during their service are kept in an archive.
- The Faculty Senate has listservs for committee use.
- The Senate received funding for the Faculty Senate this year to update the website and plan to provide appropriate links with the DOR website.
- At the last RSC meeting, a subcommittee was formed to look at TRIPP; Dr. Fletcher was elected chair. Raymond Bartlett was already looking at TRIPP funds and a committee was created that encompassed all University stakeholders, including deans. The committee is a good example of shared governance with the Faculty Senate.
- Dr. Chin has provided a scheduled slot for DOR to use if they wish (i.e., Dr. Krishnamoorti) at every full Senate meeting.

Approval of the April Meeting Minutes: Dr. Zouridakis asked if there were any changes to the meeting minutes. Dr. Lee made a motion to approve. Dr. Chin seconded. The minutes were approved.

Election of Vice Chair for 2015-16: Dr. Zouridakis informed the committee it's customary for the RSC Chair to nominate a Vice Chair. He has asked Dr. Richard Bond to be Vice Chair and asked the RSC for comments or suggestions. The

committee voted unanimously in favor of Dr. Bond and he was congratulated by Dr. Zouridakis and RSC members.

Status Report by Acting VP/VC for Research and Technology Transfer:

Dr. Krishnamoorti gave the following update:

- The University has been designated as being a center for the Subsea Systems Institute. The Institute was developed with federal funds from the RESTORE Act. It's up and running and Dr. Krishnamoorti is in the process of hiring a director.
- Drs. Venkat Selvamanickam and Allan Jacobson are moving ahead with the Superconductor Manufacturing Institute. They received NIST funding which will help move the Institute to the next level.
- Dr. Krishnamoorti used to be on the RSC many years ago and learned that it is not just an advisory group. Because the RSC is now part of the Faculty Senate, it is a critical component of the university dialogue with a powerful voice.
- He acknowledged Dr. Richard Willson who is the Interim Associate VC/VP for Tech Transfer and stated research and tech transfer is very important to the University.
- He acknowledged Dr. Mary Ann Ottinger who is the Associate VC/VP for Research and said she has been working with the RSC on a number of agenda items.
- The University needs be at \$200 million in research funds by 2020 and he will need input from the RSC as this initiative moves forward.
- DOR's role is to serve faculty, and in research and tech transfer, not to lay down the law or follow mandates - there has to be a collaborative process. It cannot come top down, it has to be bottom up. DOR works with academic faculty to help recruit excellent faculty, and it should enable and empower those activities.
- He has been working with Cris Milligan and Pam Muscarello on the DOR budget together for 2014 and will have it available at the next RSC meeting. For 2015 and beyond, he wants the budget to be transparent, and informed the committee they will get a budget for the last FY and future FY's going forward.
- Dr. Krishnamoorti ended his report by saying he's there to listen and to be aware of any issues.

Update by Associate VC/VP for Research: Dr. Mary Ann Ottinger gave the following update:

- Her main message was "Thank you." The committee has been instrumental in assisting her office with several items they've been working on this year.
- Grant preparation is in process for Hispanic Serving Institution (HSI) and there are a number of Limited Submissions. She would like a small group of

members to work with her office over the summer to improve the Limited Submissions process. This group will work with her on figuring out a process for large complex grants.

- Her office is establishing a number of working groups on a variety of topics to enhance interdisciplinary interactions and multidisciplinary research. She invited members interested in participating to let her know.
- She thanked Rozlyn Reep for her assistance with the RSC over the past year. Rozlyn helped coordinate all of the internal awards and provided administrative support to the RSC and the RSC subcommittees.
- She introduced Drs. Courtney Donica and Brooke Gowl who are Research Liaison Officers in the Office of Research Development and described their roles. She informed the committee that Dr. Gowl will now be the Point of Contact for the RSC.

Update by Interim Associate VC/VP for Tech Transfer: Dr. Richard Willson gave the following update:

- 50% of his time is as Interim AVP for 5 months and he is enjoying it.
- ERP is acting as an incubator for companies and a site for the NSF iCORPS program. He told members that if they have anything that could be commercialized, they can provide training and funds. They will offer courses.
- He provided information regarding GAP funding and Dr. Song asked what the deadline was for Gap funds. Dr. Willson replied May 30.

Dr. Zouridakis asked Dr. Willson if he felt the IP Committee was functioning the way it was supposed to and if the RSC should suggest changes and get more involved. Dr. Willson said he thinks it's a good thing and represents a high level of shared governance with a large workload.

Dr. Dryer said the IP Committee should be larger and doesn't have needed breadth in terms of expertise. Dr. Zouridakis asked if the IP Committee should be bigger or have a more selected membership. Dr. Lee said the constitution of the IP Committee is set by the Faculty Governance Committee (FGC) of the Faculty Senate. The FGC seeks broad representation; however, the IP Committee would serve faculty better if the FGC chose people with proper expertise. He suggested either changing how the IP Committee was constituted or teach the IP committee how to better review. Dr. Chin stated that given the issues with the IP Committee, it would be good to take a look and suggested having a task force think of a process. Dr. Lee said the IP Committee might need help with setting criteria.

Dr. Zouridakis suggested that Dr. Willson's office compile a list of required expertise and perhaps the RSC can help match experts with the list.

Update by Interim Chief Health Officer:

Dr. Earl Smith gave the following update:

- When he took the position of Chief Health Officer, the charge was to expand the health portfolio on campus and focus on professional programs. He told the committee he was going to talk about the Health & Biomedical Sciences 2 Building (HBSB2) and summarize ongoing initiatives.
- HBSB2 has gone through design development and they are currently working on construction documents. Construction will probably begin in July and cause headaches in terms of traffic and parking. There's a dangerous pedestrian crossing close by and he has been working with the city to get a traffic light and change the median to restrict traffic flow. Student parking will be displaced from the first floor of the garage in front of the towers.
- The building will have 9 floors. Floor 1 will have a primary care clinic with an integrated Behavioral Health Center to serve UH's faculty, staff, and students and surrounding community. It will also have sleep labs and family doctors with students shadowing the doctors.
- Floor 2 will have clinical services for communication disorders, audiology, educational psychology, health and human performance and physical therapy. The nursing program will be expanded onto the UH campus.
- Floors 3-6 will have the College of Pharmacy, teaching laboratories, research space and graduate program.
- Floors 7-8 will have basic research, DOR and center for Drug Discovery.
- Floor 9 will be 100% DOR.
- The ground breaking will be July 2015. They are waiting for the Texas legislature to be out of session and the education bonds, with plans to open the building in summer of 2017.

Dr. Smith continued his report by saying the University was going to move nursing from the Victoria campus to UH main campus and would like to establish a doctoral program. There's a doctoral occupational program under consideration and primary care medical school.

Administration considered a College of Health Sciences and he was asked to ascertain the feasibility of such a college with a task force formed last fall. The group had good discussions about organization structures; however, there has now been a decision to stop working on a College of Health Sciences.

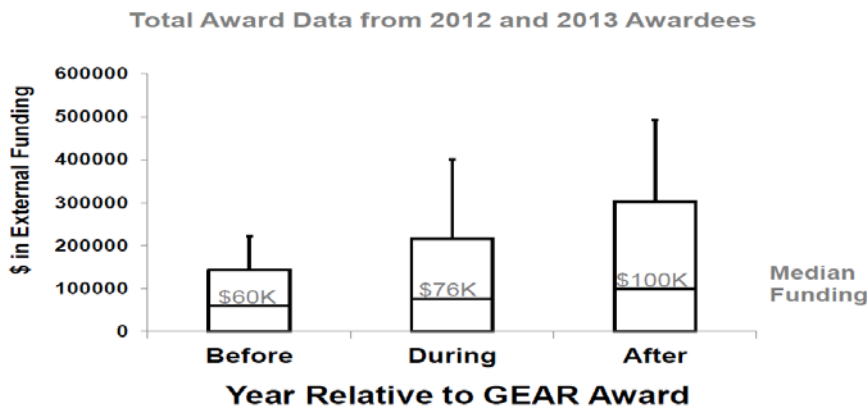
Dr. Fletcher said he was not surprised about the College of Health Sciences and that it would clearly take more time to figure out. Dr. Willson asked why there was a focus on primary care. Dr. Smith said it's very logical - there's a shortage of primary care doctors. They hired a consultant group to do a feasibility study. The first part of the study will look at the question, "is it a good idea"? If they come back with a positive response, the second phase of the study will be to develop an action plan. Dr. Smith told the committee money will be a big issue and a final decider with the primary care program.

## Subcommittee Reports

**New Faculty/Small Grants:** Dr. Zouridakis reported that he discussed the submission date with Dr. Obasi. The deadline will be sooner than previously.

**Excellence:** Dr. Neighbors reported that the guidelines had been changed for 2014-15 based on the RSC Retreat last year. The process went smoothly and he had no further suggestions. Dr. Dryer said he had no criticisms and that he has participated in the review process for Excellence several times. The subcommittee will always have a close competition at the full professor level. Dr. Chin said he had not heard any criticisms either. Dr. Zouridakis said the guidelines seem to be working well.

**GEAR:** Dr. Roman was unable to attend the meeting so Dr. Bond gave the subcommittee report. He said there was nothing new to present and the subcommittee doesn't have solid statistics. Dr. Zouridakis showed a slide with the following information:



**Total Yearly Increases for 20 PIs (2012 & 2013):**  
Before GEAR Year to After GEAR Year      \$2,061,081 (\$103,054/PI)  
During GEAR Year to After GEAR Year      \$724,454 (\$36,222.7/PI)

There was a recommendation to design a prospective study and expand the program. Dr. Lee said he found data Dr. Litvinov had collected and gave it to Dr. Roman to present. It's not a systematic study, but the data show that faculty who receive GEAR funds are generating grants with a high return of external funds.

Dr. Zouridakis brought up an idea that was discussed with Dr. Krishnamoorti on how to make the program grow. The idea is to have some IDC from new awards go back into the program. Dr. Krishnamoorti said the life of the proposal depended on selections by the subcommittee as well as follow up. Dr. Lee suggested including a checkbox in the computer system for applicants so they can track GEAR's impact.

Dr. Bond stated that during the review process they looked at proposals that had a good chance of being successful. Dr. Krishnamoorti said the DOR budget had little leeway and they are looking to incentivize the program.

**Centers & Institutes:** Dr. Zouridakis reported the subcommittee was close to completing its review. Some centers didn't report awards and budgeting/expenditure information, and all of the subcommittee members submitted comments. He is compiling all of the information and asked centers to submit their budgeting/expenditure information by Monday.

Dr. Long asked if DOR could provide the RSC with official numbers. Dr. Zouridakis said there are two reports: 5-year budget reports and annual 1-year budget reports. The subcommittee should have 1-year reports by the end of the following week.

The subcommittee was also working on clusters, which are used for reporting to the state of Texas. Ms. Nancy Ward and Dr. Ben Mull in DOR are working on the issue. Ms. Milligan gave an overview of clusters and said Dr. Bose had asked for the RSC to give a recommendation on what centers should receive in regards to DOR splits. Dr. Lee said he understood only centers under DOR receive a split. However, Ms. Milligan pointed out that Academic Centers were somehow listed with DOR centers, and Academic Centers do not receive a split. There was a motion to recommend the removal of Academic Centers from the list. The motion passed.

**Core Facilities:** Dr. Zouridakis discussed Core Facilities with Dr. Krishnamoorti. There was a question of whether they were meeting their objectives. Dr. Fletcher said the subcommittee has only been involved in the evaluation of proposals and that Core Facilities are not self-sustaining research facilities. Dr. Long stated that if it's a University core facility, it should be serving the University. Dr. Zouridakis recommended that they decide on what the subcommittee should evaluate. Ms. Milligan said a list of Core Facilities was on the DOR website. Dr. Zouridakis suggested the creation of a score card & evaluation protocol. Dr. Fletcher said the center reporting format could be adapted to core facilities. The committee felt it was a good idea. Ms. Milligan said Dr. Bose had asked for a recommendation on evaluating institutes. It was suggested that the RSC have a "Research Organization" committee and create subcommittees under it.

**ACO User Advisory:** Dr. Bond told the committee he would like to table the discussion and wait for Dr. Brammer to be present.

Dr. Dryer informed the committee there was going to be a new demo on how to do protocols with an online system. Ms. Kirstin Rochford said IAUCUC and IRB were going to see the demo as well.

**Misconduct Policy:** The policy went to the UCC for review and Ms. Rochford is waiting to get it back. Dr. Lee said that the UCC doesn't "review", they "circulate" to all interested parties so that feedback can be logged.

**Publication Costs:** The issue was tabled for the next meeting.

**Conflict of Interest:** Dr. Burns was not present. Ms. Rochford said the committee was working well. She is going to work with Dr. Willson on startups.

**IP Committee:** Dr. Chin informed the committee that Dr. John Wolfe, who will be serving on the RSC, will serve on the IP committee.

**TRIPP Matching Funds:** Dr. Fletcher reported the subcommittee consists of Dean representatives, Provost office, Advancement, and DOR representatives. Dr. Lee will be representing Natural Sciences & Mathematics, Dr. Harold will be representing Engineering, Dr. Chin will be representing Business, Mr. Bartlett will be representing Finance, Dr. Clarke will be representing the Provost, and Ms. Keen will be representing Advancement. Dr. Koono will represent arts research on the committee. Dr. Fletcher wants the RSC's input since TRIPP involves research. Ms. Milligan suggested that there should be a representative from the Arts on the TRIPP committee. Dr. Chin said he talked to the Chancellor about the TRIPP issue.

**GTF Task Force:** Dr. Lee reported that this was a faculty-driven initiative and a joint effort with Graduate and Professional Studies and the RSC. They are working on defining what the rebate is for faculty who are taxed with putting tuition on their grants and are working with Dr. Litvinov to define the rebate process and the amounts. In a meeting of the task force, Dr. Lee learned that the GTF funds are currently fixed. The Task Force also needs to find ways to sustain and grow the GTF. That way they can have a sustainable rebate. Most of the meeting discussion focused on strategies to sustain and grow the GTF pool of funds with 4 ideas:

- 1) Open dialogue with Advancement to develop an advertising strategy to raise money to support the GTF. Dr. Litvinov suggested that discussion be focused exclusively on RAs, since GTF support for TA's is outside the scope of the Senate *ad hoc* committee's charge. <sup>1</sup>
- 2) Dr. Lee would like to open up dialogue about DOR support.

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<sup>1</sup> Note of clarification from Dr. Litvinov: "Faculty Senate ad hoc committee reached out to me to discuss the tuition and fees in grants. Since including tuition and fees in grants impacts faculty who support RAs, it was my recommendation for our discussions to focus exclusively on RAs. Per the memo from the provost of 11/24/14 regarding "Tuition in Grants" and numerous subsequent discussions with the stakeholders, the surplus of GTF funds generated due to the grant funded tuition and fees is to be returned directly to the very same faculty, who contribute to the surplus. The return will come in the form of supplemental student support. To protect this surplus and to prevent outflow of funds from research, there will be no redistribution of funds between the RA and TA portions of the GTF budget,

GTF for the TAs was mentioned in these discussions as something outside the scope of the ad hoc committee's charge. GTF for the TAs is for the units employing the TAs to manage and to identify additional sources of funding as necessary. Perhaps, this was misinterpreted that the GTF funds are for TAs as the RSC minutes stated [before proofreading]."

- 3) We can save/generate money earmarked for GTF if enrollment abuses were eliminated, and the savings are tied to the GTF.
- 4) Have new courses earmarked for GTF pool.

Dr. Fletcher mentioned several more ideas to support the GTF:

- 1) Have a grant-writing course in which students write a grant submitted as a F31 NIH grant, which would pay 60% of a student's tuition course.
- 2) Training grants (T32) – can pay tuition fees.
- 3) Dissertation fellowships – don't carry tuition, but would be better to support GTF. Perhaps a proposal could be made to the Houston Endowment.
- 4) The University ought to be able to encourage faculty to move consulting into the University, with a "tax" to support graduate research assistants.

Dr. Lee told the committee he would like for them to send him any thoughts or ideas regarding the GTF. Dr. Chin asked Dr. Lee to send him a summary.

Dr. Krishnamoorti asked Dr. Lee what he learned from other institutions. Dr. Lee said most institutions require you to put tuition on grants. However, the mechanisms for how to deal with it are unclear. Dr. Krishnamoorti asked if it would be best to look at university best practices. Dr. Lee replied yes. Dr. Long said they shouldn't make a decision on whether other universities do it, but on whether it benefits the university overall. Dr. Krishnamoorti said the issue is if they try to increase the number of PhD's and another issue is adhering to federal requirements.

Dr. Lee said that he will get together with Ms. Rozlyn Reep to send a message to the RSC to see how they can generate more funds for the GTF.

### New Business

**Major Instrumentation Grant:** Dr. Zouridakis said the current limit is \$1 million. If there was a need on campus for an instrumentation that meets the needs of a large group of users, he wonders if it would be possible to increase the amount. He discussed with Dr. Lee possible strategies to find out the needs across campus. They would like to identify an instrument that will address the needs of many users and develop a proposal that will be beneficial to everyone. Dr. Lee said he would like for the committee to endorse the suggestion. He also mentioned the idea of Dr. Krishnamoorti asking the Associate Deans for Research what their colleges need in hopes of seeing if there's a common need. It would make Dr. Krishnamoorti's job easier if there's independent feedback from colleges. Ms. Milligan said it was tried two years ago. A problem arose when one college wanted equipment in a certain area and different facilities the idea eventually died. The question is how do we develop a plan that doesn't waste faculty time and the RSC's time? Dr. Krishnamoorti stated he wants the request from groups of faculty. That way you don't have issues such as where an instrument should be located.



Dr. Zouridakis asked if something were purchased for Natural Sciences & Mathematics, could they get an attachment Engineering could use. Dr. Dryer said he couldn't imagine coming up with a one size fits all solution for equipment. Dr. Krishnamoorti suggested that they get ahead of the curve with some of the big grants and start now and see what the needs are.

Dr. Lee said the Limited Submission announcement should be sent out now. Dr. Krishnamoorti agreed with the idea so teams could start getting together and working. Dr. Ottinger asked what the internal due date should be. Dr. Lee said October 1<sup>st</sup> (last year it was November 1<sup>st</sup>). Dr. Ottinger said two meetings ago it was decided proposals for Core Facilities were due October 1<sup>st</sup>. Dr. Zouridakis said they should let people know the mechanisms have merged.

Dr. Zouridakis called for a vote on the October 1<sup>st</sup> internal deadline. The internal deadline was approved.

Dr. Ottinger asked if the announcement will now ask folks to apply for the Major Core or NSF Limited submission MRI. The application procedures are different for both. Dr. Zouridakis said folks have to apply internally and then go for the NSF application. Everyone follows internal guidelines for the first application.

Dr. Lee offered to provide previous guidelines for the MRI competition and suggested considering these guidelines.

**External Relations:** Dr. Zouridakis said there's a need to create an external committee so folks in external relations can see what UH does in terms of Research. Dr. Long said he thought there was a university office that already handled marketing. Dr. Krishnamoorti said they currently do two magazines for Research. Dr. Long asked if they needed more than that. Dr. Chin said the committee will suggest what goes in the magazine. Dr. Krishnamoorti said the scale and magnitude of efforts at UH goes unreported. Also, DOR recently hired a Communications Director. Dr. Zouridakis asked if the committee could work with him/her and Dr. Krishnamoorti said "absolutely." He would love to have RSC input on what should be included. Dr. Dryer thinks this is very important and said it may be worth having a subcommittee on a permanent basis whose function is to liaise with external communications. Dr. Krishnamoorti recommended that the RSC create a committee and liaise with the Communications Director in DOR. Its function would be to advise on university research, scholarship, technology, and creative arts. Dr. Dryer made a motion to approve an External Relations committee and Dr. Lee seconded. The motion passed.

**IDC Allocations:** Dr. Zouridakis said people have expressed different concerns regarding the allocation of IDC. There's a disparity across departments on how IDC is used. Most work is done by a PI but they usually don't have any say on how the IDC is used. He knows there was a committee that found no misuse of funds and no

reason to change the status quo, but he wanted to revisit a past RSC-approved motion that PI's participate in the IDC distribution formula by 5% off the top.

Dr. Dryer said he was previously a department chair and no two departments are alike. He likes the idea of 5% going back to PI's and thinks it may be good to have a fixed percentage come from DOR off the top. Dr. Lee said the RSC discussed the issue before.

Dr. Krishnamoorti told the committee the conversation needs to happen between departments and deans. He doesn't think he can mandate that DOR give a percentage back to faculty.

Dr. Willson asked why the Senate faculty couldn't talk to certain department chairs, and that it sounds like an issue that's at the local level. Dr. Zouridakis said faculty are not going to want to antagonize their Dean and Chair, and that it's not fair to ask untenured junior faculty to go against leadership.

Dr. Fletcher said the committee can make a recommendation again. Dr. Krishnamoorti told the committee it should not be routed to DOR, but should go to the Faculty Senate. Dr. Fletcher agreed it should be rerouted.

Dr. Lee asked Dr. Chin if he could put the issue on the Faculty Senate agenda. Dr. Chin told the committee they needed to decide which RSC issue should go forward. There were members who suggested IDC and others who suggested GTF. While there was general consensus that sustaining the GTF is a broad problem that needs immediate attention, it was also decided that the 5% IDC request would move forward. Dr. Chin said it was noted.

**Limited Submissions:** Dr. Ottinger told the committee she would like a few people to work with her over the summer to get Limited Submissions more streamlined. She would like suggestions for a selection committee, timelines, etc. She asked for a couple of people to assist her. She'll email a few people after talking with Dr. Zouridakis.

**Data Management:** Ms. Rochford reported that last year DOR was approached by internal audit. They said there was no control over the protection of data. DOR told internal audit they would develop a plan. Ms. Rochford worked with IT security on developing a policy. She suggested that a subcommittee review the policy. Dr. Zouridakis told Ms. Rochford he would find her volunteers. Dr. Lee said that whoever is replacing Ms. Christie Peters at the Library would be a good person to help review. Dr. Chin said to send the policy to the Faculty Senate subcommittee (faculty).

Dr. Lee made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Dr. Dryer seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 4:06 PM.

