

Council on Research Meeting Minutes

Monday, December 3, 2018

2:00 – 4:00 p.m.

University Hall, Room UNH 306

Robert Rosenswig, Chair

Members present: Kumar, Satyendra (Ex Officio VPR Designee); Rosenswig, Robert (Chair); Aykanian, Amanda; Coddington, Kate (replacing Moeyaert, Mariola); Drislane, Lisset; Ernst, Jesse; Freedman, Jeff; Jahanbani, Nakissa; Jiang, Shiguo; McAndrew, Lisa; Minder, Justin; Morano, Carmen; Piotrowska, Monika; Poehlmann, Nancy; Slade, Leonard; Trolan, Teniell; Wang, Jun

Additional attendees: Philip, Thecla

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Council on Research (CoR) Chair, Robert Rosenswig at 2:00 p.m.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

The November 19, 2018 CoR meeting minutes were reviewed and approved, with 3 abstentions.

Old Business

1. ERCA subcommittee membership and nominations:

CoR Chair Rosenswig explained that Bill Hedberg of the Provost's Office indicated he would solicit President's and Senate designees as well as an undergraduate student representative and that the subcommittee will not convene in December, but rather just before or early in the spring semester. The CoR Chair noted it was suggested by the VPR Office that perhaps a faculty member should co-chair the ERCA committee with the student chair; however, Dr. Hedberg did not have an issue with a student serving as Chair. The deadline for nominations 11/26/18 was much later than last year, the Chair added.

Updated membership:

Chair: Amanda Aykanian
Kate Coddington (replacing Mariola Moeyaert)
Lisset Drislane
Nakissa Jahanbani
Leonard Slade, Jr

Action Item: Additional members to be solicited by Bill Hedberg before the January meeting:

President's designee
Senate designee
Undergraduate student (not required)

New Business

1. CoR Subcommittee Recommendations Presented for Vote by Subcommittee Chairs

a. Benevolent Award – Report by Teniell Trolan, Chair

Applications and Review Process: For the fall 2018 semester, 13 Benevolent Award applications were received. Applications were reviewed by the student's research supervisor/dissertation chair, the student's department chair, and members of the CoR Benevolent Award Subcommittee. Applications were scored by at least two members of the CoR Benevolent Award Subcommittee, who rated the following elements of each application: Project Narrative, Approach, Proposal Progress, Budget, Application Quality, Outside Funding, Funding Need, Overall Recommendation. Once all applications had been scored, the Subcommittee met on Friday, November 30, 2018, from 2:00-3:00 PM to discuss applications and to recommend funding. Four of five subcommittee members were in attendance at the meeting. Funding Recommendations: Based on the award criteria and discussion of the applications received, the committee recommended funding five proposals and partially funding three proposals (totaling \$3,500).

Action Item:

Vote: A motion was made and unanimously approved that CoR accept the subcommittee's funding recommendations for the Benevolent Association Research and Creative Activity Grants.

b. Conference/Journal Support Awards – Report by Lisette Drislane, Chair

The subcommittee reviewed seven applications (five -Conference, two-Journal). Each subcommittee member reviewed all applications, filled out the review portal, and made an initial recommendation. The full subcommittee met in person on Wednesday, November 28, 2018 to discuss the proposals. Based on the group deliberation, the subcommittee arrived at a consensus recommendation for each proposal. We had some questions that we brought up to the whole CoR committee. After the meeting, an amendment was made to the initial recommendation on Monday, December 3, 2018. The total funding recommendation in the context of the available funding was summarized in a table shared with CoR members. The Subcommittee recommendations took into account the limited amount of funds available for award period of \$12,500. The final decision was to fully fund three conferences, partially fund two other conferences, partially fund a journal and not to fund one of the journals – due to lack of information submitted as to how the money requested was going to be used and if there was a need for it. (Full comment provided on the evaluation spreadsheet).

Action Item:

Vote: A motion was made and unanimously approved that CoR accept the subcommittee's initial funding recommendations for the Conference and Journal Support Awards.

Members discussed the guidelines for review and recommendation for awards. Chair Rosenswig underlined that CoR does not have standards to measure outside funding secured or requested when determining awards, and stressed that the ranking system is by a perception of excellence. Vice President for Research representatives clarified that unused Internal Awards funds are used to fund other types of research projects. Members agreed that Subcommittee chairs should provide a

summary of anonymous qualitative feedback to applicants not funded to help them improve their future applications.

Action Item:

Vote: A motion was made that CoR accept the subcommittee's amendment to the funding recommendations for the Conference and Journal Support Awards, with the following voting results: Approved 12; Opposed 2; Abstained 0

- c. Centers/Institutes: Revised proposal for Establishment of the Institute on the Health Effects of Climate and Environment – Report by Jeff Freedman, Chair

A summary of the Committee's meeting last week on the above-referenced proposal

The committee determined that the Institute would add value to the University's research environment. After reviewing the revised proposal for The Institute on the Health Effects of Climate and Environment, the Committee on Centers, Institutes and Specialized Research Laboratories determined that: The applicants, as set forth in the revised proposal in response to requests made during the original review, had failed to provide 1. Draft Institute Bylaws, 2. A three-year strategic plan, 3. An itemized accounting (financial) plan. We would also like to see some clarification on a) sustainability—not just assumptions regarding likelihood of proposal funding and reliance upon existing grants; and b) how internal University resources would be utilized. To provide a complete assessment as set forth in the "Policies and Procedures for Establishing, Operating, and Reviewing Organized Research Units at the University of Albany", the Committee, to formulate recommendations to the Council on Research, will need to review the above documentation. I have spoken with Dr. Chris Walcek, one of the two Co-Directors of the proposed Institute. He informed me that they would provide the necessary information after receiving a request from the Committee.

Chair Freedman noted that the committee had met via Skype and that he had recused himself from voting on the proposal, as a member of the ARSC faculty. CoR members discussed ways center and institute value to the university is measured, including policies on annual reporting. It was agreed that the VPR's Office would send out this year's notice to deans requesting updates to the inventory and information for Centers, Institutes and Labs.

Meeting Wrap Up

The CoR Chair opened the floor for any other business items CoR members would like to address before the meeting adjourned.

The FRAP subcommittee would meet the following week to review proposals, per FRAP Chair Justin Minder. CoR Chair Rosenswig noted that he would be sending out a list of next semester's meetings.

Meeting adjourned at approximately 4:00 p.m.

Submitted by Elisa Lopez, Staff Support