

***Council on Research Meeting Minutes***  
***October 20, 2010***  
***Life Sciences Research Building, Conference Room 1143***  
***9:30 am – 11:30 am***

***Members present:*** Michael Amrozowicz, Berhane Araia, James Castracane, Richard Cunningham, Kirsten Davison, James Dias, Elizabeth Gaffney, Daniel Goodwin, Daniel Keyser, Hamilton Lankford, Elaine Lasda-Bergman, Robert Nakamura

***Members absent:*** Robert L. Brainard, David Lewis, and Oleksandr Kazakov

***Also attending:*** Antigone McKenna, Theresa Walker, and Robert Webster

***Call to Order***

The meeting was called to order by Council on Research Chair, James Castracane, at 9:35 am.

***Approval of September 15 Meeting Minutes***

A motion to approve the minutes was made by Richard Cunningham, seconded by Daniel Goodwin. Motion carried.

***COR Subcommittee Membership***

James Castracane, Chair, noted that there are a few subcommittees that still need members. He asked COR members to reach out to colleagues and inform them that the subcommittees exist. Robert Webster reiterated the need for more faculty representation on subcommittees; particularly, Researchers Liaison Committee.

***Vice President for Research Report, James A. Dias***

- **Chancellor's Award**  
COR members were encouraged to reach out to colleagues for more nominations for the SUNY Chancellor's Award; to date, one nomination has been submitted.
  
- **NSF Survey of R&D Expenditures**  
Interim Vice President Dias presented results of the NSF pilot program in which UAlbany participated. The charts depicted two categories: Total and Federal R & D Expenditures. A comparison of UAlbany to other SUNY institutions and to current peer institutions was made in both categories.  
Salient points included:
  - ~Of the 697 respondents, UAlbany ranked 58<sup>th</sup>
  - ~Peer institutions are based on whether institutions conduct high-end research and whether they have or do not have a medical school
  - ~CNSE is autonomous, but data collected
  - ~Numbers include grants of School of Public Health faculty whose funding goes through HRI
  - ~Federal grants and contracts are included in the survey results
  
- **Announcement**  
Adrienne Bonilla is leaving Research Division for a position in the College of Nanoscale Science and Engineering. We have begun the search, but until such time that a replacement is named, PIs should expect delays in IRB, IACUC, and bio-safety protocols. Every effort will be taken to process protocols as quickly as possible, but all

questions or concerns should be addressed to James A. Dias, Interim Vice President for Research or Robert Webster, Associate Vice President for Research

Robert Nakamura questioned if larger categories could be excluded from the process; for example, put a filter on the process so as to exclude graduate students. Interim Vice President Dias explained that a large portion of IRB protocols are not research funded; they are academic. He suggested forwarding any concerns or issues about this issue directly to him. Of note is the fact that because of limited personnel in the Office of Regulatory Research Compliance, no one is available to conduct training.

Hamilton Lankford commented that based on his experience, the information requested by UAlbany is more restrictive than other institutions. Robert Nakamura suggested that an alternative view is to be compliant, but less restrictive institutionally.

Kirsten Davison noted that some protocols are time crucial. Interim Vice President Dias responded that Adrienne will be assisting us part-time to help deal with time sensitive protocols on an individual basis.

Robert Webster reminded the membership that there is a basic set of information that must be met in order to be compliant. We are currently looking at other tools to facilitate the process.

### ***Budget Reduction***

James Castracane, Chair, reported that at the last Senate Executive Committee meeting each council was asked to confer with their council members regarding the impact of the budget reductions and develop a statement to be forwarded to the Senate by November 19, 2010.

Comments were as follows:

Hamilton Lankford - budget cuts have mainly been to academic programs; COR's discussion should focus on research.

Interim Vice President Dias – In particular, budget reductions will affect each unit's ability to conduct research. The Research Division has been instructed to do a 10% reduction over the next two years. The Division is primarily funded by Indirect Cost, although there are some state funded personnel lines. Some units in Research whose personnel are mainly state funded are taking the major hits, i.e., the Center for Technology in Government and the Atmospheric Sciences Research Center, which marginalizes their competitiveness.

Robert Webster – Budget reductions will certainly have a long term affect on recruitment and retention, so we should anticipate retention problems.

Dan Keyser – President Philip mentioned Atmospheric Sciences Research Center in his highlights at the fall Senate meeting, but now ironically, Interim Vice President Dias is saying the Center is at risk because of budget reductions.

Elizabeth Gaffney – Since we are not sure what all of the reductions are, it is difficult to comment on the impact.

Daniel Goodwin – the Dean asked each chair to provide a confidential list so that she can make an informed decision. Chairs were not given a status report nor does anyone know what happened with that list.

Interim Vice President Dias - There is a potential risk of losing productive researcher. The other part of retrenchment/retirement, if there are other opportunities for investment, COR should advocate for sustaining the research environment. He further commented that strategically, the centers and institutes should clearly state their academic connections. Their existence doesn't rely on tuition, but rather on how they leverage federal funding.

Hamilton Lankford – The reductions should be thought about from all funds budget perspective; in other words, don't cut centers because they have state dollars, but be more strategic in terms of strengths and weaknesses. In addition, we don't know what cuts will be made; it is more important to look at future cuts. People who are making decisions need to know how these cuts will affect research productivity and dollars, not just enrollment.

James Castracane, Chair, asked everyone to give further thought to budget reduction impact and be prepared to formulate a statement at the November meeting.

Daniel Goodwin requested more detailed information on Budget Analysis Group (BAG). It was noted that the BAG report is accessible from the website. He questioned if it is reasonable to provide more details than percentages. What informs the percent? What are the guiding principles?

James Castracane, Chair, will make an attempt to obtain more details, but there are many unknowns at this point. **(ACTION ITEM)**

Interim Vice President Dias cautioned that we should keep an eye on what the Chancellor is doing regarding the SUNY Reach Innovation Economy. She is obviously reserving funds for future initiatives. For example, an initiative to form an eye institute at the Excellence in Academic Health Care Center was recently funded.

### ***Old Business***

#### ***Proposed ICR Distribution Policy***

Robert Webster provided background information on the proposed policy. The main focus was to reward PIs who generated F & A. The policy was initiated under the late President Hall. The committee reviewed several institutions, including our peer institutes and found that a variety of sources of funding was used, including endowment funds.

The goals of the committee included:

- 1) Determine mechanisms to incentivize faculty to pursue federal dollars;
- 2) Make provisions for enough funds so that pre and post award areas could still operate;
- 3) Provide a small portion of ICR to help fund humanities; and,
- 4) Reduce the number of incentive requests through the Vice President for Research.

Hamilton Lankford questioned if this is the time to move forward with the proposed policy given the current political and fiscal environment.

Interim Vice President Dias commented that the down side to such a policy is when resources are de-centralized, no strategic choices can be made -- this has a negative impact on what you can do as an institution. He further commented that perhaps we should be thinking about how are we incentivizing research at UAlbany; how faculty are being mentored; how are faculty getting equipment; bridge funding, etc. We should perhaps consider a policy with components such as:

Faculty training - student/postdocs  
Curriculum that attracts students  
Excellent students from U.S. – these are the students that can compete for training grants  
Environment (culture)  
Double federal funding – resources will double, thus returning more for incentives  
Become more competitive to secure more grants  
Salary recovery – pay salaries from at-risk account  
Graduate student funding

Other issues raised included, the possibility of re-deploying funds for research if ICR is helping to fund other things on campus; possibility of phasing in a policy on ICR rather than implementing all at once.

James Castracane, Chair, suggested that the discussion continue and possibly invite Kim Bessette, Associate Vice President for Finance and Business to the next meeting to further discuss the Indirect Cost Recovery to the campus and how those funds are distributed. **ACTION ITEM**

***New Business***

None

***Adjourn*** – Meeting adjourned at 11:20 am  
Submitted by Janice E. Bogan