

Council on Research Meeting Minutes
May 18, 2011
University Hall, 306
9:30 am – 11:30 am

This was a combined meeting of 2010-11 and 2011-12 Council on Research Membership

2010-11 members present: Berhane Araia, James Castracane, Richard Cunningham, Kirsten Davison, James A. Dias, Elizabeth Gaffney, Daniel Goodwin, Daniel Keyser, Hamilton Lankford, David Lewis, and Elaine Lasda-Bergman.

2010-11 members absent: Michael Amrozowicz, Brian Barksdale, Robert Brainard, Vishnu Chaturvedi, Jane Kadish, Oleksandr Kazakow and Robert Nakamura

New members present: Samantha Friedman and Charles Scholes

Also attending: Adrienne Bonilla and Robert Webster

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Council on Research Chair, James Castracane, at 9:40 am.

Approval of April 27, 2011 Meeting Minutes

The minutes were approved with one change: remove Danny Goodwin from the list of absent members.
Vote: 10 – yes; abstention: 1

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

- Vice President Dias reviewed a chart reflecting research activity July 1, 2010 – March 31, 2011 compared to the same time last year. The categories included proposal submissions, committed funds, expenditures and research compliance – protocols.
- There are two applications being submitted from UAlbany for funding consideration from the SUNY Research Foundation Technology Accelerator Fund. The fund was developed to assist researchers who are in the early stages of technology transfer, but may need traction to move beyond the proof of concept stage. The applications are submitted to the technology transfer officer at the campus and forwarded to the central office for funding consideration.

In response to an inquiry about the decline in number of submissions; Vice President Dias suggested that this may be a function of contracts vs. grants submitted. He also offered to provide details/breakdown of submission of grants by schools and colleges if anyone is interested.

Audit reports

Robert Webster reported that the Office for Sponsored Programs has been involved in several audits throughout the year, both RF and Federal. A few main points of interest and concern:

- 1) Administrative positions – some positions were being charged to grants when they should not have been. It appears that every position has to be analyzed, so before putting a position on a grant, units need to flush out the percent effort, the position's role in the grant, etc. Vice President Dias encouraged membership to go back to their constituents and encourage a culture of understanding and collaboration. Likewise, Vice President Dias, Associate Vice President Webster and University Controller Wilcox are planning to meet with various units and explain what we are up against.
- 2) Contracts (especially State) – RFP from State agencies for units contracted to provide services. The agency may want the centers/institutes to purchase satellites, computers, etc. rather than use the state procurement system.

- 3) The auditors thought it was laudable that UAlbany has a strong and well-defined policy of establishment and periodic review of centers and institutes. However, we need to make sure the policy is being followed. Also, all organized research units and the person to whom they report should be made aware of the policy and provide annual reports to the reporting unit and to the Council on Research subcommittee on Centers/Institutes.

Conference/Journal Support Award - Elizabeth Gaffney, Chair

Elizabeth Gaffney provided an update as follows:

- 1) The second conference applicant's award was pending receipt of information about door receipts. Based on the clarification received, the applicant was awarded \$1,000 rather than \$1,500.
- 2) The third conference applicant submitted clarification to the committee and was encouraged to apply again during the extended deadline period.

Excellence Award for Research & Creative Activities – Hamilton Lankford, Chair

Hamilton Lankford asked everyone to think about criteria for an early achievement excellence award. Based on prior discussion at COR meetings, it was agreed that perhaps the Researchers Liaison Committee could reasonably discuss and make a recommendation to the Vice President for Research. Vice President Dias will follow up with Co-Chair of the Researchers Liaison Committee, Berhane Araia.

Adjourn – Meeting adjourned at 10:48 am
Submitted by Janice E. Bogan