

Council on Research Meeting Minutes
February 3, 2010
Life Sciences Research Building, Conference Room 1143
9:30 am – 11:30 am

Members present: Lance Bosart, James Castracane, Richard Cunningham, Kirsten Davison, James Dias, Elizabeth Gaffney, Daniel Goodwin, Hamilton Lankford, Elaine Lasda-Bergman, David Lewis, Dale Morse, Robert Nakamura, and Kevin Tyle.

Members absent: Berhane Araia, Bharat Avasarala, Brian Butcher, Mengbing Huang, and Eszter Szcalzer

Also attending: Adrienne Bonilla, Theresa Walker, and Robert Webster

Call to Order

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

Approval of Minutes of November 18, 2009

Elizabeth Gaffney called attention to the action item related to forwarding lists of names of departmental undergraduate research scholarships and awards to the Office of the Vice President for Research. Jam Castracane reminded the group to forward any available information pertaining to this item. Robert Nakamura noted that many of the undergraduate awards and scholarships are listed in the commencement program, so this is a good source of information.

Elizabeth Gaffney made a motion to approve the minutes; seconded by Hamilton Lankford. Motion passed unanimously.

Vice President for Research Report by James Dias

- The Research Colloquium is scheduled for April 14, 2010. Dr. Michael Salyards will speak on “The Perfect Storm – DoD, NAS and the Forensic Sciences”. More information is forthcoming. James Castracane noted that some of the CNSE faculty are doing work related to forensics and may want to be involved in the colloquium.
- The Office of the Vice President for Research will be participating in UAlbany Advocacy Day.
- SUNY Chancellor’s Award
The nomination packets for last year’s recipients of the UAlbany Excellence in Research Award were forwarded to Bill Hedberg for consideration for the SUNY Chancellor’s Award. However, the nomination packets did not include the required external references, so they will not be considered. Note: external references are currently not required for the UAlbany Excellence in Research Award. Interim Vice President Dias noted that, in the future, we should make sure the guidelines are revised to include external references as a requirement for consideration for the local excellence awards. **ACTION ITEM**

Conference Support Award

Lance Bosart reported that the committee was concerned that one of the applicants for conference support award is requesting funds for a conference to be held in Puerto Rico (University of Puerto Rico is co-sponsoring the conference). Since the guidelines are silent on conference location, the committee is seeking guidance from the Council as to whether the requested funds should be awarded.

After a brief discussion, Lance put forth a motion to support the conference under discussion. Council voted not to fund the conference as recommended (5 no; 4 yes).

The committee was also charged with reviewing and revising the guidelines to address the issue of providing conference support for conferences not held at UAlbany.

(ACTION ITEM)

FRAP A Review Committee by Kirsten Davison

The committee's recommendations which included three different strategies for funding, were presented to the Council membership. One of the applicants recommended funding is contingent upon receipt of additional information and clarification. The scores for two of the applicants were too close to call, therefore, the committee chair requested guidance from the COR membership.

After a brief discussion, Council recommended that the FRAP review committee take a second look at the recommendations for funding and make a decision keeping in mind the maximum funding level of \$120,000.

Committee on Centers/Institutes/Specialized Labs, written report by Mengbing Huang with comments by committee member, Robert Nakamura

The proposal for permanent center/institute status for the Institute for RNA Science and Technology (IRNASt) has been reviewed by the committee. The Committee is requesting additional information on two items as noted in the report.

Excellence in Research by Dale Morse

Dale Morse reported that a record number of nominations for the UAlbany Excellence in Research Award have been received. Janice will follow up with the Office of the Provost to determine when the University's Excellence Awards ceremony will take place and will schedule the committee meeting. **(ACTION ITEM)**

Other

Robert Webster updated everyone on changes at the Research Foundation level. Fringe benefit rates will be published soon; quick view has been enhanced; e-verification of employment has been implemented, and federal auditors are looking carefully at effort reporting. He suggested inviting Tracey Williams, director of Sponsored Funds Personnel to a future meeting to bring everyone up to date on the new e-verification requirements. **(ACTION ITEM)**

Meeting adjourned at 10:50 am
Submitted by Janice Bogan