

Council on Research Meeting Minutes
February 16, 2011
Life Sciences Research Building, Conference Room 1143
9:30 am – 11:30 am

Members present: Michael Amrozowicz, Brian Barksdale, Robert L. Brainard, James Castracane, Richard Cunningham, Vishnu Chaturvedi, Kirsten Davison, James Dias, Elizabeth Gaffney, Hamilton Lankford, David Lewis, and Elaine Lasda-Bergman.

Members absent: Berhane Araia, Daniel Goodwin, Daniel Keyser, Oleksandr Kazakov, Robert Nakamura

Also attending: Antigone McKenna, Robert Webster

Guests attending from the Research Foundation: Adam Gibbs, Sr. Vice President and Treasurer, Michelle Angular, Director of Campus Services, and Nancy Vetora, Manager of Cost Accounting.

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Council on Research Chair, James Castracane, at 9:36 am.

Approval of December 15, 2010 Meeting Minutes

Hamilton Lankford motioned to approve the December 15th minutes; seconded by Elizabeth Gaffney. Motion carried unanimously.

Research Foundation Presentation on Campus Assessment – Adam Gibbs, Michelle Angular and Nancy Vetora.

Information was presented on the Research Foundation Revenue and Expenses – main topics included:

- How the RF Supports SUNY Research
- Sponsored Revenue
 - Represents mainly revenue generated from organized research
- Cost of Sponsored Programs
- IC/IDC Ratio
 - UAlbany has the lowest rate of return of six campuses at 18%; if this were increased to 19%, the 1% difference would equate to \$867,000 in additional revenue. Vice President Dias clarified that the information presented speaks to the rates we get for the type of research indicated; it is not an indication of whose doing better or worse.
- FY 2011 RF Financial & Operating Plan (major themes)
- Sustainability (issues and solutions)
- Collaboration
 - UAlbany and the College of Nanoscale Science and Engineering are among the four regional technology transfer hubs.
- How the RF Assessment Supports SUNY Research
 - Ten percent (10%) of the overall budget is applied to legal, audit, financial accounting, human resources management, effort reporting and procurement services. In addition to the services

noted, the Research Foundation plans to commit \$500,000 in the Technology Accelerator Fund to provide bridge funding for technology development. The Research Foundation is also asking the foundation from each of the four University Centers to commit \$250,000.

Three hundred thousand (\$300,000) will be set aside to assist campuses who may need funds to support services provided by the hub campuses.

Chair Castracane opened the floor for questions and discussion. The following are salient points of the discussion:

1. Administrative cost are expenses related to administration of sponsored funds.
2. Perhaps UAlbany should be compared to comparable disciplines of other campuses, e.g., remove medical schools and schools of engineering.
3. There are large public service components that make our overall numbers look less than favorable.
4. Programs and what they costs are quite different.
5. Public service costs are different from organized research. Significant costs are driven by space required for organized research. Administrative cost is what is being supported by research.
6. UAlbany will always be involved with public service (workforce development); but it appears that the good we do with public service makes us “look bad”.
7. Many campuses return significant amounts of indirect cost to the PIs; how are other institutions able to do this?

Adam Gibbs reported that pursuant to President Philip’s concerns about the impact of the rate assessed to UAlbany, the Research Foundation is in the process of reviewing the current algorithm and expect to have a new model by 2013. Meanwhile, the Research Foundation is considering a request to the Board for one-time funding to share with the campuses.

Vice President for Research Report - James A. Dias

Vice President Dias referenced handouts:

1. Research Activity to date for FY2011 (July – January) compared to the same time period for FY2010.
2. Expenditure Activity by Sponsor Type and F & A Rate of Return – UAlbany’s Peer Institutions
3. Total Expenditures (Direct & Indirect) by Program Class (NACUBO) Note: UAlbany has the larger percentage of expenditures in public services compared to the other University Centers (UAlbany =63%; Binghamton=14%; Buffalo=3%; and Stony Brook-10%).

He noted that organized research is suffering because of costs associated with public service. For example, we need to determine how to leverage what PDP does to other units who want to use their services and the units, then, can leverage for grants for higher rates.

Lewis questioned if there is an opportunity to re-negotiate contracts so that we are at least breaking even.

COR Standing Subcommittee Reports

Benevolent Award Review - David Lewis, Chair

No report

Conference/Journal Support Award - Elizabeth Gaffney, Chair

In response to Council's request at the last meeting, Elizabeth Gaffney presented a revision to the wording of the journal support application specifying what is meant by editorship (reference handout). Chaturvedi clarified that managing editor or editor in chief are positions that would normally receive support from the institution.

After a brief discussion, Chair Castracane asked the committee to revise the wording again based on the discussion and forward to the Council for review.

FRAP A Review, Kirsten Davison - Chair

Kirsten Davison summarized the procedures for COR's approval of the FRAP A recommendations. The vote was completed by e-mail in order to give appropriate time for notifying and providing feedback to unsuccessful applicants who wish to apply for FRAP B.

Cunningham posed the question as to whether CNSE faculty should be considered for FRAP since they are not contributing to the indirect cost which funds the Faculty Research Award Program. Chair Castracane noted that there will be fewer request for funding from CNSE in the future.

Davison also reported that in some of the disciplines, the research design is lacking in the proposals – this may be an opportunity to provide mentoring.

Centers/Institutes/Specialized Labs - Robert Nakamura, Chair

No report – Chair absent

Excellence in Research and Creative Activities Award - Hamilton Lankford, Chair

Hamilton Lankford reported on the committee's concern about how to equitably review and judge the research component as opposed to the creative activities component of the Chancellor and UAlbany's excellence awards. One suggestion is to develop a form to be used for review in the future; however, the challenge is to make each category comparable.

The other issue involved the description of the awards which seem to favor faculty who have a more sustained record of research. Perhaps we should implement a different award for those who are early in their careers and on a trajectory that offers great promise. Vice President Dias will discuss with Provost Phillips whether this should appropriately be an academic award or a research award. **ACTION ITEM**

There are many unanswered questions at this point, e.g., should the metric be higher and make fewer awards? Should consideration be given to recognition of faculty who get tenure and are being approached by other Universities for employment opportunities?

Conflict of Interest - David Lewis ,Chair

No report

Researchers Liaison - Berhane Araia and Katie Gonder, Co-Chairs

No report

Old Business

Proposed Changes to the Policy on Distribution of Indirect Cost Return

New Business

None

Adjourn – Meeting adjourned at 11:27 am

Submitted by Janice E. Bogan