Minutes of the Research and Scholarship Committee: May 4, 2102

RETREAT


Absent: Pradeep Sharma, Stowe Shoemaker, Chinhui Juhn, Robert Palmer, and Coleen Carlson.

The meeting was called to order by the Chair at 8:30 a.m.

Review and approval of minutes from April 13, 2012 meeting: Dr. Lee made a motion to approve the April minutes and Dr. Ogmen seconded. The motion carried.

2012-2013 Meeting Dates were noted and passed out to all. Anne Sherman will send a meeting request to all for the proposed dates. Cris Milligan indicated that the meeting times should be changed so that Dr. Bose can attend. Anne will work with Dr. Bose and his staff to finalize before the meeting requests are sent out to the members.

Election of Center/Institute Member: This discussion was led by Dr. Litvinov, who brought up the issues. Does the RSC allow the representative to be elected by just the 12 DOR centers or by the entire faculty? Dr. Garson suggested a straw poll, which indicated that the majority believed it should go to the full faculty with the caveat that this first election be a one-year term and that the RSC would “hash it out” during the coming year. After the straw poll and discussion, Dr. Lee made the motion, which was seconded by Dr. Chin, that the representative be elected by the general faculty and have a one-year term. This motion passed.

Chair Report: Dr. Bhattacharya reported that the RSC has completed a lot of business this year and that the coming year will be challenging. Dr. Bose will address these challenges for which he needs the RSC support. Dr. Bhattacharya is Chair of the search committee for the Associate Vice President for Research, and there are 4 interviews currently being set up.

Vice Chancellor/Vice President Report:

1. Dr. Bose thanked all of the RSC for working with him this year on the challenges and issues and reported that he is ready to move forward with the research agenda.

2. He knew when he interviewed for the position that UH did not have a complete infrastructure and that resources were limited. His agenda is to provide the needed resources to the best of his ability. He stated that we need to collectively defend the processes that have been established.

3. The biggest challenge for the coming year will be the Federal Audit that starts in September, 2012, under OMB Circular A-133. He reported that two weeks ago the State Audit Office looked at our records and that our effort reports had to be brought up to date for this audit. We were vulnerable and his staff helped to get caught up, specifically Beverly Rymer, Selesta Hodge, and Nancy Ward. There were no major findings, as a result of this effort.
The Federal Audit is a different matter. The state audit covered FY 2010 and FY 2011, but for the federal audit, we must get FY 2012 caught up. The result of not being ready is a stiff fine. Therefore, this is his first and major priority for this summer. Effort reporting affects all funding sources because it is important to record a faculty member’s total commitment, if he/she is charged to a federal project.

4. Regarding a permanent fix, we are in the process of licensing and installing three major programs: PeopleSoft Grants for Post-award, InfoEd for Pre-award, and Maximus for effort reporting. The challenge will be that we will be running dual systems for all three of these areas until we are comfortable that the three new ones are ready to go on their own.

5. Because of this important emphasis, the tuition waiver policy may be delayed. The original goal was to have it in place by August 31, 2012. He will continue to work on it, but it may be delayed as much as one year.

Centers and Institutes: Jack Fletcher, Stowe Shoemaker, Haluk Ogmen, Brooke Gowl, and Cris Milligan. Dr. Ogmen reported that the members had reviewed the information on the three centers and that they had received an application for a new center. The committee will meet soon to discuss this information, so that the responses can go forward to Dr. Bose. The new application is for a college based center and if there are no major issues, it should go forward for approval. This is a good example to use as a model for the future approval process. For some of the centers/institutes, Dr. Fletcher suggested that a charge-back mechanism should be considered by the subcommittee.

Stowe Shoemaker is leaving the university and will need to be replaced on the subcommittee. Cris Milligan asked for an alternate, in addition to filling Dr. Shoemaker’s place on the subcommittee. Dr. Gunaratne volunteered to be the replacement.

The Chancellor has asked Dr. Bose to revise the MAPP on Centers and Institutes by 12/31/2012. This revision will include information on who is responsible for the center/institute and how one can be closed if there is either inactivity or if there is no return on investment.

Dr. Lee suggested the following:

1. Need clear definitions of center/institute under departments, colleges, and the University.

2. Need to categorize all of the current ones based on these definitions.

3. Establish a “closing” policy.

4. Close defunct centers/institutes.

5. Require report cards from all centers/institutes.

6. Review centers/institutes as requested by department, college, or University (DOR).

Dr. Litvinov made a motion and it was seconded by Dr. Lee to close down centers/institutes that have not had any activity within the past 5 years in consultation with the “owner” and to remove them from the UH website. The motion passed.
Core Facilities: Dr. Lee indicated that the request for proposals had been presented to the Faculty Senate and there was a question about requests for less than $400K. Dr. Bose indicated that the RSC needed to develop a process which DOR can use for these requests, one that does not micromanage.

Tuition Support for Graduate Students: See Vice Chancellor/Vice President report.

Internal Awards: Dr. Garson and Dr. Tam reviewed the awards that had been made during the year. A copy of the awards funded is attached to these minutes. Regarding the GEAR awards, we have received complaints that PIS did not know what the selection process was and if they had known, they might have written their proposal differently. All agreed that the process should have been communicated. The second issue is that more funding is needed for these awards. For GEAR, we had 78 proposals and only funded 11. There was discussion about the GEAR and how it could be restructured. During the discussion, it was noted that some of the award winners had significant start-up packages and perhaps should be restricted from receiving a GEAR. Dr. Bose noted that the start-up packages now require a detailed budget so that it will be easier to see what was awarded; PIs will be asked to give more justification in their Internal Award proposals. Dr. Bose also noted that he has asked Dr. John Roberts for a plan on how he would administer $50,000 for publication for humanities faculty. This is in addition to the amount awarded for internal grants, and he is waiting for this plan from Dr. Roberts. Dr. Bose also pledged to work harder to identify additional funds for these awards.

Potential changes for next year: Regarding the process, all agreed that it needs to be more transparent next year. Also, the RSC can just set one deadline for proposals and let the colleges create their own internal deadlines. Feedback from the RSC can be done by sending notes taken during the selection process. All agreed that the proposal writer needs to know if non-experts will be reviewing the proposal. Dr. Bhattacharya will send an email to all of the 13 that were not awarded. There was discussion about restricting a PI from only applying for one program a year. For all of the awards, there will be language added regarding start-up funding. If you have start-up funding, you must provide additional justifications for the request. For small grants, you must provide additional justifications if you have had start-up funding within the last 3 years. Dr. Garson made a motion to accept all of these changes, Dr. Lee seconded, and the motion passed.

Research Space Allocation: At the April 13, 2012 RSC meeting, Dr. Lee suggested that the RSC adopt a motion to require the Provost to vet their findings on space through the RSC.

Dr. Bose indicated that he is working with Administration and Finance regarding the charging of ERP rent to faculty. This is a big audit issue that needs to be resolved.

Vice Chair Moves to Chair for 2013: Dr. Bhattacharya welcomed Dr. Randy Lee as the new Chair for the RSC beginning 9/1/2012. A new Vice Chair will need to be elected at the September, 2012, RSC meeting. Dr. Lee asked all to begin thinking about taking this position.

TARU Data Presentation: Dr. Ogmen gave a presentation for TARU Data. Dr. Bhattacharya suggested that this presentation be given to the Faculty Senate and put on our website.

New Business for 2013: Bylaws for the RSC.
Retreat adjourned at 12:00 noon.