

University Research Council

Academic Year 2016-2017

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Chair: Donna Neff

Summary of Key Business Conducted

Face-to- face meetings were held in Millican Hall monthly except December 2016 and May 2017. Business was conducted during these meetings as well as by two volunteer subcommittees.

Dr. Debra Reinhart attended the majority of meetings to facilitate the direction of the Council's Goals. Dr. Elizabeth Klonoff attended as able, and at the first meeting charged the committee to assume the role of Advisory Board. At each meeting the committee was updated on ORC news. In addition, we were informed as to the new processes for TIPs, RIAs and Burnett Honors College Summer Grants that would no longer a responsibility of our committee.

- I. The first goal of the council was to revise the administration of the University In-House Grants (now VPR-AECR Grants). We proposed that the individual colleges/departments were in positions to evaluate and rank their faculty grant submission because of their understanding of the research proposal content. For the 2016-17 submissions, we informally directed the college's to send in their top choices. Based on committee consensus, the number of in-house grants were allocated to colleges/ institutes based on these items: number of in-house grant submitted 2012-16, and; number of applications received for 2017 awards. We considered these values and derived a formula that was used to designate the number of individual colleges/institute awards for 2017.

A subcommittee was formed to reexamine this process and decisions were sent to Dr. Rienhart. Here are the committee recommendations:

We wanted a model that would be simple and fair, as well as one that focuses on the chief objective of the award: Help provide startup funding for new faculty to transition to follow-on funding. Because of this, we decided that it was best to have a "needs" focus than a "merit" focus. As a preliminary note, we use the term "junior faculty" to refer to those that are either assistant professor or research assistant professor. Given this, we suggest the following model:

- Each college forms a group and all centers & institutes form a group;

- Each group with at applicant for the award receives a base amount (to be determined annually by amount of UCF funding available);
- Each group with at least one applicant for the award receives an additional disbursed amount from the remaining funds proportional to the number of their junior faculty divided by the total number Junior faculty (exclude those from groups that did not apply);
- Each college or center who contributes funds may disburse those funds, as well.

The individual colleges, as well as the centers as a whole, can chose to allocate their funds as they prefer. This will allow some groups to choose fewer but larger awards and others to choose more but smaller awards, etc.

The recommendations are under consideration and in the Fall, the Council will revisit this topic.

II. Item for the committee was to review: a graduate program self-study survey initiated by Dr. Reinhart and her team. The survey was administered in early fall and findings were discussed in our meeting.

III. The Committee was tasked with reviewing of Research Council ORC Policies:

Policies reviewed:

| Policy number/name | Link |
|------------------------------------|---|
| 2-903.1 Travel to restricted areas | http://policies.ucf.edu/documents/2-903.1TravelToRestrictedDestinations.pdf |
| 4-300.1 SEVIS compliance | http://policies.ucf.edu/documents/4-300.1SEVISCompliance.pdf |
| 4-202.1 Human Research Protections | http://policies.ucf.edu/documents/4-202.1HumanResearchProtections.pdf |
| 4-209 Export Control | http://policies.ucf.edu/documents/4-209ExportControlPolicy.pdf |
| 4-211 Research Misconduct | http://policies.ucf.edu/documents/4-211ResearchMisconductPolicy.pdf |

4-504.2 Reporting a potential conflict of interest or conflict of commitment in Research

<http://policies.ucf.edu/documents/4-504.2ReportingAPotentialConflictOfInterestOrConflictOfCommitmentInResearch.pdf>

Several questions were raised about Policies 4-209 Export Controls; 4-504.2 COI, and; 4-300.1 SEVIS. These questions were brought to the attention of Dr. Reinhart for her review.

Recommendations:

The review process for the Excellence in Research Awards requires clarification.

There was ongoing discussions around scale of funding in different disciplines. I think we resolved this in part with the sub-committee's recommendations for the in-House Grant – now call VPR-AEER grant.