

Faculty Senate Research Council Meeting

Minutes of
October 14, 2019

In attendance: Martha Brenckle, Andres Campiglia, Debopam Chakrabarti, Peter Delfyett, Debbie Hahs-Vaughn, Qun “Treen” Huo, Victoria Loerzel, David Luma, Sarah Norris, Nina Orlovskaya, Yongho Sohn, Eduardo Teixeira, Keri Watson, Paul Wiegand, Shengli Zou, Chris Emrich (by phone), Julie Brisset (by phone), Bari Hoffman Ruddy (by phone), Liz Klonoff, Debra Reinhart

Debopam Chakrabarti, Chair, called the meeting to order at 4:00 PM. The roll was circulated for signatures. The members introduced themselves with brief description of their research expertise.

Research Council Duties and Responsibilities

Dr. Chakrabarti went over research council responsibilities. He queried the council whether compliance be considered part of the duties and responsibilities (item ‘a’ duties and responsibilities). Members unanimously voted to approve.

Dr. Chakrabarti asked if it is our responsibility to evaluate research centers with respect to item (c) on the duties list.

Dr. Reinhart informed that faculty senate provided a document last year about centers- there is a need to form a subcommittee. Dr. Klonoff mentioned that currently there is no way to approve or sunset centers. There are large number of centers with different purposes and scopes, we need to take a close look into the process.

Dr. Chakrabarti asked is there a center review process in place, annual or 5 yearly?

Dr. Reinhart stated that BOG recognized centers are reviewed every 5 years and there is an existent process for this.

Dr. Brenckle mentioned that units are reviewed regularly, but centers may have different missions.

New Seed Funding and Equipment Funding Program

Dr. Chakrabarti inquired whether this committee is also responsible for the review process for the recently announced seed funding grants.

Dr. Reinhart stated that guidelines for review exists, request to review proposals will be sought from the faculty with expertise, including those from the research council. There would be 2 reviewers /proposal.

Dr. Campiglia inquired about the council’s responsibilities for human/animal subjects.

Dr. Klonoff mentioned that IRB and IACUC have the responsibilities. The research council should get updates and give feedbacks from time to time to avoid issues. However, with the Huron roll out everything should be integrated. Additional \$100K is available for that purpose.

Dr. Klonoff stated that the seed and equipment funding is a 1-year experiment. \$2M pot is created from \$1.5M from Provost Dooley and \$500K from OOR. Old OOR seed funding of \$7.5 K was insufficient do anything meaningful, hence this new initiative for exploratory, interdisciplinary, and equipment grants. Goal is to increase extramural funding. For the equipment grants, the college/department needs to match 50%, with OOR contribution being \$100K maximum.

Dr. Campiglia and Dr. Sohn inquired about maintenance contract support.

Dr. Klonoff suggested that the colleges would be the responsibilities for that.

Dr. Reinhart stated that there were 49 letters of intent for interdisciplinary seed funding. Exploratory proposals are expected to be ~15-20K/proposal. Interdisciplinary proposals are expected go after big grants- 4-5 such proposals.

Dr. Wiegand wanted to know about the measures for success.

Dr. Klonoff responded that the success would be measured based on whether these awards translate into more extramural funding.

UCF Research Funding Numbers

Dr. Reinhart gave a short presentation, slides available from her. Summary: More PIs are submitting grants and success rate has increased. 2019 extramural funding is \$192.14M, a 5% increase from 2018. Data is available from <https://pda.research.ucf.edu/>.

Cluster Initiatives

Dr. Chakrabarti commented that the reception for cluster initiatives at different institutions are quite variable.

Dr. Reinhart mentioned that FCI 1.0 had 6 clusters. Sustainable Coastal System Cluster is the 1st to become a state-level center. 3 clusters were approved in FCI 2.0. Hiring is almost complete except for Cyber Security, and still searching for someone to lead Disability, Aging, and Technology cluster. Objective is to complete the process this year.

Dr. Reinhart presented stats of FCI investment. There are 50 FCI faculty across almost all colleges. The metrics/assessment was reviewed. She showed slides illustrating performance, FCI appears to be outperforming stove-piped colleagues. Compared FCI to “virtual peer at aspirational peer institutions, compared favorably. More than half of the publications have with two of more people from cluster.

Dr. Chakrabarti raised the concern that tenure-earning cluster faculty may have loyalty issues as the tenure comes from the academic unit.

Dr. Reinhart responded that input and letters from cluster leads is required. However, it is true that FCI members are not necessarily on the T&P committees.

Other Business

Dr. Klonoff mentioned about the Washington DC congressional liaison office assistance. She expressed that faculty should get more exposure to delegates. For letter from delegation, Dr. Reinhart needs to be contacted 2 weeks in advance. Better dialog between Greg Schuckman and the faculty. There needs to be good representation from individual units to get reciprocal feedback. When in DC, faculty should contact Greg Schuckman for meeting with delegation representatives.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:04 pm.