

University of Rhode Island  
Council for Research  
2008 – 2009 Annual Report

Members:

Cynthia Blanthorne, Business Administration

Clinton Chichester III, Biomedical Sciences

Nikhilesh Dholakia, Business Administration

Ginette Ferszt, Nursing

Graham Forrester, NRS

Jami Halpern, Undergraduate Student / Honors Program

Sookhyn Kim, TMD

John King, Oceanography, CFR Chair

Tom Mather, Plant Sciences, Center Director

Jane Miner, GSO

Joelle Rollo-Koster, History

Manbir Sodhi, Industrial Engineering

Theodore Walls, Psychology

Marcella R. Thompson, Graduate Student, Nursing, GSA

Mark Wood, Psychology

Raymond Wright, Engineering, Council of Deans

Betty J. Young, Education

Ex-Officio:

VP Peter Alfonso, Division of Research & Economic Development

S. Bradley Moran, Division of Research & Economic Development

Karen Markin, Division of Research & Economic Development

Harold Bibb, Graduate School

### Meetings 2008 – 2009:

Professor John King served as the Chair for the Council for Research during the 2008 – 2009 academic year. The Council met ten times, on the following dates:

September 8, 2008  
October 6, 2008  
October 30, 2008  
December 1, 2008  
February 2, 2009  
March 9, 2009  
March 30, 2009  
April 6, 2009  
May 4, 2009  
May 11, 2009

### Significant Activities:

The specific priorities for the 2009 – 2010 Council for Research were:

Follow-Up regarding 2008 CFR Ad Hoc Committee's Pre-Submission Report  
Updating Council for Research Conflict of Interest Policies  
Review of Post doc hiring policies  
Review and commentary of Provost Vision Plan  
Out of state graduate research assistant tuition costs  
Proposal Development and Career Enhancement grant programs  
Establishment of new Marine-Related grant program, funded by RI Sea Grant  
In conjunction with the Office of the Provost, creation of Center application review form  
Review of new and existing Center applications  
Decertification of defunct centers

### Major Accomplishments:

Center reviews were completed for twenty-one centers and institutes: one new center application was approved for temporary status; thirteen centers were recertified for continuing status; five centers were decertified as they were either determined to be defunct or withdrew voluntarily from center status; two centers were determined to be primarily educational or cultural centers rather than research centers, and were recommended for review by an alternative review process, such as VP Tom Dougan's office.

Action on several other center recertification applications was postponed until the Fall of 2009, pending receipt of additional information requested by the Council.

A subcommittee meeting of the Council for Research discussed the length of the approval time for the continuing centers (7 years) and decided that this current period is too long. They recommended that it would be better to approve continuing centers and institutes for 3-4 years instead. This recommendation was shared with the full Council via email. Tom Mather, who was not present at the

meeting, submitted a dissenting opinion, saying that he thought the seven years certification period is appropriate. This issue will be revisited at the September 2009 meeting by the full Council.

Unfortunately the actions of the council with regard to centers are not complete. Careful review of pertinent language on procedure in the University manual indicates that the CFR omitted key steps in the procedure i.e. determining that the cognizant department chairs and deans approved the centers. We are currently rectifying this omission. In addition, it became clear during the review process that URI and BOG records on center status are poor and in some cases contradictory. We are also working on this problem. One current objective of CFR and the Provost's office is to clarify the procedure for establishing and reviewing centers and institutes. The attached flow chart represents an interpretation of the pertinent language in the university manual provided for faculty senate comment.

Council for Research Faculty awards for the Proposal Development and Career Enhancement grant programs for 2008 – 2009:

The Council recommended allocating \$29,100 for awards in the 2009-2010 Career Enhancement faculty grants program, to be awarded in the following amounts:

- 1) \$4,000 to Kathleen Davis
- 2) \$5,400 to Becky Sartini (ADV)
- 3) \$4,600 to Zahra Meghani (ADV) (Book purchases omitted; \$200 added for copying)
- 4) \$6,000 to Kendall Moore (ADV)
- 5) \$4,000 to Naomi Mandel
- 6) \$5,100 to Claire LaCoste Kapstein (partial support)

This year, RI Sea Grant sponsored \$10,000, their first grant funds for Marine-Related proposals, which will become a continuing contribution and will increase to \$30,000 next year. This first award was awarded to:

- 1) \$10,000 to Christopher Roman

The Council recommended allocating \$50,700 for awards in the 2009-2010 Proposal Development faculty grants program, to be awarded in the following amounts:

- 1) \$6,500 to Walt Besio (\$1,000 cut from Boston conference travel request)
- 2) \$9,800 to Bingfan Yan
- 3) \$9,400 to Keunhan Park
- 4) \$7,600 to Navindra Seeram
- 5) \$8,100 to Resit Sendag
- 6) \$3,800 to Susan Loftus (ADV)
- 7) \$5,500 to Vinka Craver (ADV) (partial support)

Not enough funding was available to award these grants, which were recommended in the following amounts, pending availability:

- 8) \$5,100 to Chris Lane (partial support)
- 9) \$5,100 to Leslie Mahler (partial support)

Recommendations were forwarded to VP Peter Alfonso for award confirmation and notification. It was noted that, in keeping with the Council's historical strong support of ADVANCE principled research, ADVANCE principled research was awarded \$25,300, surpassing the minimum target goal of \$20,000.

The fiscal year for this grant program begins July 1, 2009. \$20,000 will be paid from the Office of the Provost, as confirmed by Cliff Katz; \$60,000 will be paid from the Division of Research & Economic

Development; and \$10,000 will come from RI Sea Grant, for total of \$90,000 for faculty research grant funding.

As only \$80,000 was available for Proposal Development and Career Enhancement awards, rather than the \$90,000 recommended, the final two grant awards, which were recommended for Chris Lane and Leslie Mahler, were not able to be funded.

#### CFR Ad Hoc Committee Pre-Award Recommendations Progress:

Assistant VP for Research Administration Bradley Moran updated the Council about progress made on the Ad Hoc committee's recommendations of 2008, as follows:

- \* The position for the Director of Sponsored Projects Review was filled
- \* A web-based scheduling calendar to help cut down on the number of emails and phone calls to staff, and to empower the PI's to schedule appointments electronically
- \* The Research Office first floor was repainted, the cubicles were removed, and a comfortable waiting area with a workstation and wireless internet access was created
- \* A temporary employee was hired to cover for the employee out on extended leave
- \* The Council reviewed drafts of U-Conn's policy for proposal deadline enforcement, and were asked to submit their comments for creation of a new URI policy

#### Results of other significant activities:

- \* Met with Assistant Provost Cliff Katz and Human Resource Director Laura Kenerson to understand the University's Post Doc benefit policies; The policies were subsequently posted on the Human Resources and Division of Research & Economic Development websites
- \* Met with Provost Donald H. DeHayes to discuss the Provost's Vision Statement and submitted written comments to the Provost
- \* Reviewed the STAC Report
- \* Reviewed and updated Council for Research's Conflict of Interest Policies
- \* Ranked candidates for the Annual Recognition Luncheon for Research nominees, which were awarded to:

Brett Lucht  
Mohammad Faghri  
Guo Ming Chen  
Galen Johnson

- \* VP Alfonso announced that recommendations for adjusting graduate research assistant tuition costs to in-state levels had been approved by the Provost. The VP for Research & Economic Development and the Provost both supported this measure, and Assistant VP Bradley Moran provided a detailed analysis of the issue that demonstrated its benefits to the University. The Council for Research also advocated for this action.