

University of Rhode Island  
Minutes of the Meeting of the Council for Research  
Monday, April 6, 2009  
URI Library, Conference Room A

Attendance:

Members Present: Chairman pro tem Mark Wood, VP Peter Alfonso, Cynthia Blanthorne, Theodore Walls, Clinton Chichester, Karen Markin, Ginette Ferszt, Jane Miner, Sookhyun Kim, Betty Young, Raymond Wright, Clinton Chichester

Others Present: Jill Diehl, Melissa McCarthy

Members Absent: Nikhilesh Dholakia, Harold Bibb, Graham Forrester, Marcella Thompson, Joelle Rollo-Koster, Thomas Mather, Manbir Sodhi, Jami Halpern

In the absence of Chairman John King, Mark Wood opened the meeting at 3:06 pm.

Minutes of the meetings of March 9 and March 30, 2009:

The minutes of the meeting of March 9 and March 30, 2009 were approved.

VP Report:

1) March Revenue Report:

Vice President Peter Alfonso reported that the March monthly fiscal report shows fiscal year to date revenue from grants and contracts as \$56.5 million dollars, now slightly behind FY06's \$57.2 million, but still ahead of three of the last four years. Faculty have done an outstanding job submitting proposal requests totaling \$237 million, way ahead of past years. The full report will be distributed soon.

2) ARRA:

The Division of Research is gearing up to handle the ARRA (American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, aka Stimulus Funds) as \$21.5 billion will soon be released by the federal government for grants. Dr. Karen Markin oversaw that Status Report #1, which lists funding opportunities of agencies, was posted on our website, and Status Report #2 will be on soon. The Friday, March 27<sup>th</sup> informational meeting sponsored by the Division of Research & Economic Development was very well attended (95 people). We will offer other sessions as information is updated. NIH currently has released a lot of information; NSF is behind but should be releasing more soon. After Status Report #3 is released, another informational session will be offered. NIH has new construction awards, and Karen Markin headed a special review committee to determine the three submissions out of five applicants in this limited competition. Members on that committee included University lead personnel from administration, academic affairs, researchers, and Deans. Three big construction proposals were selected: College of Pharmacy build-out;

BSL3 facility for animals; and a centralized lab facility for animals. There are three deadlines for these submissions: May, June, and July; 630 research universities nationwide will be competing. Mark Wood asked if infrastructure grants would be dispersed geographically across regions, and whether Senator Reed could be helpful. The answer is that all these grants have different rules than usual. Senator Reed will be asked to help by VP Alfonso who will be in Washington, D.C. as he is Chairman of the DOD EPSCoR Task Force, which works with Senator Reed's emerging threats subcommittee. VP Alfonso said it is unlikely that URI will get more than one award, as Brown and other local universities will be applying as well. Ted Walls asked if the proposal can be made into one powerful proposal, instead of three, but there are limits on funding the RFP criteria are different. The animal facility is the most expensive, at \$15 million. The BSL lab is the least expensive, at \$2 - \$5million.

Karen Markin said that we can apply for one DOD EPSCoR proposal. Now that the GU8 is finished, VP Alfonso will not be traveling as much and will have more time to devote to these ideas.

#### STAC questions from prior meeting:

Tom Mather, who raised several questions, was not present at the meeting. VP Alfonso said that he spoke with John King, who said that people thought that URI didn't get any of the \$1.5 million. That is not true. Of seven awards granted, URI was involved with four of seven as multiple PI's received sub-awards under other lead institutions. The link to this report is <http://stac.ri.gov/news/2009/01/28/stac-awards-23-scientists-10-institutions-funding-for-collaborative-projects/>

The question about how to better understand STAC's review criteria by was addressed. Although VP Alfonso sits on the board, he is not on the review committee. He recommended that the Council for Research ascertain the criteria by asking STAC directly for that, as it should be public information.

#### Special Center Review Meeting:

The Council was asked to choose a special date, perhaps a Monday in April to hold a special meeting to review pending center renewal proposals, as well as two pending new center applications. After discussion, the Council decided to address the center issue at our May 4<sup>th</sup> meeting, and hold it upstairs in the Galanti Lounge if possible, so that we can extend the meeting beyond 4:30 if necessary. At that meeting, the Marine Related Council for Research grant awards also need to be decided. If there is inadequate time to complete business on May 4<sup>th</sup>, they recommended holding on special meeting on May 11<sup>th</sup> to finish up. Jill Diehl noted that she will be on vacation the week of May 11<sup>th</sup>, and therefore a replacement will need to take minutes on that date. Council members asked that all applications be sent via email in advance to give them time to review them and expedite the process at the meeting. (Note: Galanti Lounge has been booked from 3-6pm for the May 4<sup>th</sup> meeting).

#### Annual Recognition Luncheon

VP Alfonso announced that all Council for Research members are invited to the Annual Recognition Luncheon on May 13<sup>th</sup> at noon at the University Club. This is the first year that the

URI Research Foundation will be funding this event. Invitations will be sent out soon. Melissa McCarthy discussed the nomination process for the awards and said that there is not a uniform format for award nominations. Some people sent CV's, some sent a letter, some both. A VITA is not a requirement of the current process. The Council felt that a consistent format including a 2 or 3 page CV and a letter of recommendations would be helpful. Melissa noted that the Council is free to change their review criteria for next year, and said that recommendations should be given to her in January. The Council asked that this issue be put on the December 2009 agenda. This year's criteria for research awards are the same as the past nine years, and involve research. She sent an email to all Council members listing the following criteria:

Research: Nominations should discuss the candidate's  
(1) achievement in his or her research, scholarly or creative activities; (2) demonstrated ability to integrate research, scholarly or creative activities with the instructional mission of the University; or (3) leadership in fostering a climate at URI that advances and sustains research, scholarly and creative activities.

This year's nomination process also asked for Intellectual Property nominees, for which awards are to be decided by the Intellectual Property Committee (not Council for Research).

#### Council for Research Faculty Grants

Council grants have been rated, reviewed, and selected. Award recommendations were made in amounts that were hoped for. The Council asked when VP Alfonso might know the amount of the funding available. VP Alfonso said that he wanted to hold off on any announcements until after the Sea Grant marine-related competition was decided, which will be done at the May 4<sup>th</sup> meeting. The Governor's budget has not yet been approved, and no funds can be committed until we know how much is available. VP Alfonso said that full funding for the program may not be possible.

#### Other Business

Jill Diehl reported that Council for Research faculty grant award recipient Laura Meyerson is co-editor on a new book just published, called Diversity Change and Human Health. The link to this story is on the URI website at <http://www.uri.edu/news/releases/index.php?id=4792>

The meeting adjourned at 3:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Jill Diehl  
Grants & Contracts Specialist

The next regular meeting of the Council for Research will be held on **Monday, May 4, 2009, at 3pm the Galanti Lounge 3<sup>rd</sup> floor, URI Library.** We have this space until 6pm if necessary.