

University of Rhode Island
Minutes of the Meeting of the Council for Research
Monday, May 4, 2009
URI Library, Galanti Lounge

Attendance:

Members Present: Chairman John King, VP Peter Alfonso, Mark Wood, Theodore Walls, Clinton Chichester, Karen Markin, Sookhyun Kim, Marcella Thompson, Joelle Rollo-Koster, Thomas Mather

Others Present: Jill Diehl

Members Absent: Manbir Sodhi, Jami Halpern, Jane Miner, Cynthia Blanthorne, Ginette Ferszt, Betty Young, Graham Forrester, Harold Bibb, Raymond Wright, Nikhilesh Dholakia

Chairman John King opened the meeting at 3:10 pm.

Minutes of the meeting of April 6, 2009 were approved unanimously.

VP Report:

1) April Revenue Report:

Vice President Peter Alfonso reported that the April monthly fiscal report will be sent out soon; indications are that we are still doing well. The VP credited the staff for doing a great job with the extra workload involved with the ARRA surveys and submissions, noting that 30-40 proposals have already submitted. At least two awards are already in, and more are probable. He praised Dr. Karen Markin and the staff for doing an excellent job gathering and disseminating information about the ARRA with researchers, and offering informational seminars about funding opportunities.

2) IP Revenue is doing quite well, already tripling last year's revenue for the URI Research Foundation. David Sadowski will be hiring for John Topping's position soon, from a pool of 28 candidates.

3) Sponsored Projects Review: hiring the new director has made a positive impact for pre-awards, as staffing level is up.

Chairman King asked, from an NSF perspective, if it is a good idea to always have an NSF grant pending. Karen Markin answered that NSF has been behind other agencies with publishing their guidelines for the ARRA stimulus money. She said that many people are pouncing on these special opportunities. Given the huge increase in the number of proposals for ARRA funded initiatives, estimates indicate only about a 2% success rate. She recommended that people not

forget the regular opportunities, which may be easier to get now that there is such focus on the stimulus funding.

VP Alfonso thanked the members of the Council for Research for serving on this committee and wished everyone a good summer. He reminded the Council of the power they have as a committee and said their recommendations hold a lot of weight at the University.

Joelle Rollo-Koster asked if VP Alfonso would be accessible to meet with humanists about their concerns, in particular, about a lack of support and recognition for work in the humanities and social sciences. VP Alfonso responded that he wants to serve all researchers and has discussed with Dean Brownell the establishment of set aside money for travel in the arts and sciences. However, with the budget cuts, this was not possible this year.

CFR / RI Sea Grant Marine Related Proposals:

At this time, Dr. Alfonso left the meeting and the Council discussed the three Marine Related proposals to the RI Sea Grant sponsored grant program.

Two of the three proposals were ranked about the same, and the third ranked lower. Chairman King felt that RI Sea Grant would be most interested in funding a proposal related to either Rhode Island fisheries, coastal communities, or global climate coastal changes. The Council recommended that the Marine proposal guidelines state this criteria next year, as one Marine program category (not proposal development and career enhancement Marine).

After discussion of the merits of the three proposals, the Council decided to award the entire \$10,000 available for one grant to Christopher Roman of GSO.

Center Reviews:

The Council discussed the Center review applications that had been submitted to the Provost Office for review by the Council for Research. The following action was taken:

Approved through May 2016:

Cancer Prevention Research Center
Coastal Institute
URI Center for the Humanities
Institute for Archeological Oceanography
State Crime Laboratory
Environmental Data Center
Rhode Island Transportation Research Center
Center for Urban Studies and Research

Considered Cultural Centers, vs. Research Centers; To be forwarded for review by Tom Dougan,
VP of Student Affairs:

Feinstein Center for Service Learning
Center for Student Leadership Development

Decertified (Centers determined to be defunct):

Center for Ocean Management Studies
Design for Manufacturability
Institute for Advanced Manufacturing
Institute for International Business

Applications Incomplete; More information to be requested for consideration at future meeting:

URI Microarchitecture Research Institute:	request list of grants and publications
John Hazen White Sr. Center for Ethics and Public Service:	request list of publications
Research Center in Business and Economics:	request budget and list of grants
National Center on Public Education and Social Policy:	request list of grants and publications
Program in Gerontology:	request budget and list of grants
Child Development Center:	request research details
Dr. Pat Feinstein Child Development Center:	request research details
Faculty Institute on Writing:	request evidence of research program
Center for Human Services:	request list of grants and publications
Center for Wellness Research and Education:	request budget and research details

Centers already in compliance:

Center for Vector-Borne Disease	Good through 2013
RORE	Good through 2014

The meeting adjourned at 4:35 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Jill Diehl
Grants & Contracts Specialist

A special meeting of the Council for Research was scheduled for Monday, May 11, 2009, at 3pm, Conference Room A, URI Library, to complete action on pending Center applications after receipt of requested information.