

Annual Report
COUNCIL FOR RESEARCH
2006-2007

Denise Coppa, Nursing

David Farmer, Oceanography

Ginette Ferszt, Nursing

Graham Forrester, NRS

Sook Hyun Kim, TMD

John King, Oceanography

Harold Knickle, Chemical Engineering

Kerry LaPlante, Pharmacy

Brett Lucht, Chemistry

Thomas Mather, Plant Sciences

John Merrill, Oceanography

Michael Milkman, CELS Business Manager

Kate Moran, Oceanography

Joan Peckham, Computer Science

Meetings

Professor Brett Lucht served as the Chair for the council for Research during the 2006-2007 academic year. The council met on the following dates:

September 11, 2006
October 16, 2006
November 6, 2006
December 4, 2006
February 5, 2007
March 12, 2007
April 2, 2007
May 7, 2007 (Planned)

Significant Activities:

The specific priorities for the 2005-2006 Council for Research were:

Graduate student tuition and stipends.
Mechanisms to sustain multidisciplinary research centers and partnerships.
Mechanisms for supporting core instrumentation.
Assist Research Office and Grants & Contracts accounting in documenting their business procedures for PIs and making their websites PI-friendly.
Fair treatment for postdoctoral research associates.

In September 2006, Council members reviewed a proposal from B. Yan, professor of biomedical and pharmaceutical sciences, for temporary authorization for a Center for Pharmacogenomics. While proposal was deemed the proposal a strong one, the Council requested that Prof. Yan attend the October meeting to further discuss the center.

The council also outlined their priorities for the year, as described above.

In October 2006, the Council, in a continuing effort to update and enhance the Council's CE and RPD grant programs, made the following changes to the 2007-08 CE and RPD guidelines:

- Revisions of the introductory paragraph
- Inclusion of score sheet criteria in section titled, "Criteria used in judging proposal development applications."
- Revisions to the "Submittal guidelines" section of the Career Enhancement RFP, based on input from the URI Center for the Humanities and National Endowment for the Humanities application.

The council voted to recommend temporary status for the Center for Pharmacogenomics.

In November 2006, the council discussed mechanisms to manage the Advance incentive fund via additional funding the Council has received for the CE and RPD programs.

The council also formed a sub-committee for internal review for proposals being submitted to the NSF major research instrumentation program.

In February 2007, graduate student salaries, health benefits, and tuition were discussed. These included: changing out-of-state to in-state after a year or two; changing grad students to in-state tuition if they are funded, such as research assistants; reduction for Level III students, which would be an incentive to graduate; and freezing tuition.

Concerns were raised about the published estimates of student health benefits costs being far too low to cover actual expenses. As a result, researchers are taking students off grants in the summer to save money.

In March 2007, Sixteen Partnership Pre-proposals were considered:

Advancing Work-Life Equity Partnership
Bridging the Divide: Social Participation through Cross-Cultural and Dual
Language Learning Modalities

Creating Online Classes through the Use Of Video
Disability and Society Partnership
Fish, Fisheries and Aquaculture Partnership
Informatics Partnership for the Enhancement of Scientific Research
International Nonviolence Partnership
Rhode Island Healthcare Partnerships: The Wave of the Future
Rhode Island Partnership for Archaeological Collaboration
Partnership for Sustainability: Suburban Landscapes and Land Use
Partnership for Wellness
University of Rhode Island Partnership: Pharmacogenomics and Molecular
Therapy
University of Rhode Island Partnership for Biotechnology Education, Research
and Training
University of Rhode Island Partnership for Energy
URI Partnership for Logistics and Emergency Management
URI Partnership in Thanatology

The following pre-proposals were invited to submit full partnership proposals were the following: Informatics, Energy, Pharmacogenomics, Disability and Thanatology.

Career Enhancement Proposals were reviewed and seven awards were recommended for a total of \$40,409.

Proposal Development Applications were reviewed and nine awards were recommended for a total of \$64,591.

In April 2007, the council met with Vice President and discussed the Universities efforts to create a Research Foundation and Research Park.

The council also listened to Prof. D. Rosen's request for roposal for a Transportation Center. Prof. Rosen's proposal for permanent status was passed unanimously.

Vic Fay-Wolfe presented a proposal for a new Digital Forensic Center. It passed unanimously.

For the remaining year the Council will:

Review the Proposals to form new partnerships at the URI
Discuss possible methods to reduce graduate tuition and increase stipends

*Report Submitted by Brett Lucht, Chair
Council for Research
April 8, 2007*