



RESEARCH CHALLENGE COMMITTEE

March 8, 2011

Present: Jerzy Sawicki, Chair; Ziona Austrian, Joanne Belovich, Joanne Goodell, Anton Komar, Maria Krasniansky, Barsanjit Mazumder, Nigamanth Sridhar, William Wilson

Absent/Excused: Tim Long, Mark Tebeau

Guests: Craig Zullig

1. Approval of Agenda for the March 8, 2011 meeting. Approved and seconded as submitted.
2. Approval of Minutes of the Meeting of February 8, 2-11. Approved and seconded as submitted.
3. Updates on Issues – Jerzy Sawicki
 - a. Research Centers

Dr. Sawicki presented information to the Committee on Research Centers. He advised Committee members that the Research Centers Review Committee (RCRC) will consist of himself, Crystal Weyman, and four members of the University Research. Dr. Sawicki would like the review committee to consist of representation from center oriented colleges. He stated that he does not have a representative from the Urban College although Urban has the largest number of centers (10). Dr. Sawicki will recruit a representative from Urban. The current break down for centers is: Class 7; Engineering 7; Urban 10; COS 3; Business 2; and Law 1.

Dr. Sawicki informed the Committee that there are University guidelines for the establishment, staffing, maintenance of Centers. All Centers must have a website and be on the Provost Sponsored Programs website to be included in the count. The goal of the RCRC is not to close, but to bring into compliance with the guidelines.
 - b. Dr. Sawicki summarized sub-committee reports on:
 - Summer Salary – This issue is partially resolved. Provost’s approval is pending.
 - Indirect Cost Recovery – Recommendation has gone forward for approval.

- Teaching Load Balance – Recommendation has gone forward for approval.
4 credit hour release for 1 Ph.D. student supervised; 2 additional credit hours for each full-time doctoral student; 8 credit hours cap. Implementation will be up to Deans. Dr. Sawicki will send a memorandum to the Deans outlining the policy.
 - Tuition Surcharge(s) – Currently the University levies an “out of state” surcharge on tuition for those who are not Ohio residents.
The Council recommends a waiver of the surcharge for graduate assistants hired on grants. The waiver would facilitate the hiring of more graduate students at no cost to the University.
 - Compensation Policy – Anton Komar
Dr. Komar has worked with Maria Krasniansky, Human Resources, to stream-line the hiring of post-docs. However, the President’s Office has inserted a new document into the hiring process, which has slowed the process. Compensation is based on years of experience rather than the NIH pay scale, which does not include fringe benefits.
 - PeopleSoft System
The Grant Management System is scheduled to go online December 2011. The Grant Management System will allow Sponsored Programs to monitor the flow of grant applications. The system will not be of significant benefit to researchers. Bill Wilson (IS&T) stated that they are improving Transaction and Gift & Grant reports. On-line requisitioning is not part of the system at this time.
The Committee requested information on why every fiscal year an investigator has to complete the requirements for a “continuous purchase order” rather than continuing the one in effect. The committee requested the Chair invite someone from Purchasing to the next meeting to explain the process.
4. Open Discussion – Due to lengthy discussion of above issues, items 4-6 were not discussed at the meeting.
 - a. Active Issues – Update, Summary and Priority
 - b. Other Issues
 - i. Graduate Faculty status requirements assessment
 - ii. Collaboration among faculty (multi-discipline research)
 - iii. Communication between RCC and College Deans
 - iv. Faculty expertise data base
 5. Development of Agenda for next meeting – Agenda will be developed by Chair
 6. New Business – There was no new business
 7. The next RCC Meeting Date: Tuesday, April 12, 2011, 3:00pm in *PH-102*

Meeting adjourned at 4:23 pm