



Research Challenge Committee

December 5, 2012 Meeting Minutes

- Attendees:** Jerzy Sawicki, Chair
Conor M^cLennan, Ex-Officio Member
Joseph Han, Ex-Officio Member
- Ziona Austrian
Jesse Drucker
Tim Long
Barsanjit Mazumder
- Nigamanth Sridhar
Mark Tebeau
Antonie van den Bogert
William Wilson
- Absent/Excused:** Anton Komar
Justin Perry
- Guests:** Craig Zullig, Director, OSPR

1. Approval of the Agenda for the December 5, 2012 Meeting
Approved and seconded as written.
2. Approval of the Minutes of the November 5, 2012 Meeting
Approved and seconded as written.
3. Introduction of Jesse Drucker, Assistant Vice President of Human Resources
The Chair introduced Jesse Drucker to committee members. Jesse will be joining the RCC as a representative from Human Resources, replacing Maria Krasniansky.
4. Pending Issues
 - 4.1 Updates
 - a. Graduate Tuition Surcharge
 - Based on data collected over a year and a half ago, the Graduate College was paying \$750,000 in surcharge fees for out-of-state students they were supporting.
 - Nigamanth Sridhar and Tim Long created a proposal for no (or small) surcharge for students receiving support from the Graduate College. It was proposed that each semester, the Graduate College would send a list of students to Treasury Services that are receiving support. These students would receive a reduced surcharge.
 - Potential changes will need to be approved by the Board of Trustees prior to being implemented. Since a reduction in the surcharge will lead to a loss of revenue, the Board will need justification to approve these changes. The Board will be advised that the

changes were a recommendation of the RCC to improve the research environment at the University. Investing more in graduate students will lead to increased productivity, increased funding, more visibility, increased fundraising, etc. .

- To keep the allocation of funds consistent, a tuition schedule for these types of students must be approved by the Board. The allocation of funds to the Graduate College will remain the same, but the Graduate College will pay less without the surcharge. The RCC will offer a recommendation to the Graduate College how best to utilize the extra funds (e.g., support more students).
- At this time, a request to lower the surcharge to the smallest amount possible would only apply to research-based graduate students. Once these changes have been put into place successfully, the committee can discuss lowering the surcharge for all graduate students.
- Timeline: The policy is planned to be ready for Fall 2013. Tim Long and Dr. Sawicki will present the recommendations at the Board of Trustees meeting in May, along with all tuition and fee changes, and the budget in one package, after approval of the Provost Office. After the endorsement of the Dean of Graduate Studies, endorsement the Graduate College and the Office of Research will jointly submit the pertinent memo to the Provost and to the President. Tim and Nigamanth will prepare a draft of the memo to the next RCC meeting for review and discussion.

b. Advance Account Policy

- OSPR is working to make the Grants Managements System, and all pre- and post-award processes, as effective and efficient as possible. One component is the new Advance Account Policy. The University needs the ability to establish (or extend) a sponsored program account in advance of receiving an award. The Advance Account Policy was created with large sub-award contracts with lengthy processes in mind. There will be one form, which will be submitted to OSPR, with a review process. A proposal or active grant must be on file with OSPR in order to begin the process, and the applicant must be able to provide evidence of an imminent or continuing award. The maximum duration of an Advance Account will be 90 days. If the grant falls through, the charges will be journalled to the individual College. To request an Advance Account, faculty members will need to complete an Internal Prior Approval Form with signatures from the PI, Department Chair, Fiscal Officer, and College Dean, and submit via e-mail to OSPR. The same form will also be used for no-cost extension requests and re- budget requests.
- RCC members suggested revising the form with notation stating that re-budget requests and no-cost extension requests will not require signatures from the College Dean or Department Chair.
- Timeline: Craig will finalize the form and present at the Fiscal Officers meeting in January. The new policy will be announced in February through Campus Mailbag, and will be posted on the OSPR website.

5. New Business

The committee discussed recurring issues with purchasing. There is no update regarding purchasing at this time, but Kathleen Murphy will attend a meeting in the spring to provide members with an update on the situation.

6. Spring Research Challenge Committee Meetings Dates and Times: TBD

Meeting adjourned at 1:30 p.m.