

**University of Massachusetts Amherst
Research Council of the Faculty Senate
David Ostendorf, Chair
2004-2005
Minutes
February 18, 2005**

Present: T. Butterfield, D. Gilbert, N. Khan, P. KostECKI, M. Lowance, M. Malone, A. Mangels, B. McCandless, D. Ostendorf, W. Patterson, S. Scarpati, J. Schafer, L. Sievert, C. Sprague, H. Woodcock, P. Utgoff (recorder).

Mike Malone:

- SEPRI, led by Abhi Deshmukh and involving many others, is preparing a response to a Broad Agency Announcement (BAA 05-008) from the Department of Homeland Security. This concerns a Center of Excellence on the "Study of High Consequence Event Preparedness and Response." The deadline for a complete draft is 4/8 for submission 4/22.

- Dean searches are underway. Research Council should encourage faculty to attend the meetings to which they are invited. In addition, there are meetings with students that are mandated to occur, and we need students to attend these.

Paul KostECKI:

- There will be on-campus tier-1 interviews for 6-8 candidates for head of CVIP. Four of these will be selected for broader campus visits. The candidates are very strong. We will need good faculty participation in the second round of interviews, circa March.

- The Research Office and the Deans are now having regular meetings, which has improved communication. About 4-5 deans plus additional dean representatives attend. The minutes of these meetings may be forwarded to research council (good idea, not definite commitment).

- Regarding curriculum fee, Bruce McCandless plans to ask our peer institutions about their practices and experience. He will report back to the Deans and to Research Council.

- There will be an April 1st call for proposals for a 'Research Leadership in Action' program. The intent is to bring professionals to campus in a forum with the specific goal of fostering on/off campus collaborations.

- Hard copies of the December 2004 'The Center' report were distributed to Research Council members.

- The recent Faculty Research Grant competition has been concluded, with thanks to the especially large burden (40 proposals) on the reviewers. (Three reviewers

remarked that the time investment was too large to do this again.) Approximately \$112K (\$224K counting matching funds) was awarded, leaving approximately \$38K to add to the Healey Endowment Grant competition, which is the next internal competition. There was general satisfaction with the matching process, but there were complaints that relatively poor departments and schools are further disadvantaged by this setup.

Andy Mangels:

- The controller's office is advertising for two accountant positions.
- The university is missing approximately 100 effort reports from PIs. This must be done, to comply with audit requirements. Bruce McCandless remarked that our once-annually request provides a minimum amount of bureaucracy for PIs, and that it could be a lot worse, and is a lot worse elsewhere. Andy said that they will soon send out a third round of follow-up letters. Lack of verification of this kind is finable by granting agencies; Florida International was recently fined \$11.5M. It may be necessary to adopt dire measures, such as shutting off spending for non-compliant grants. No one wants to do this. It was suggested that articles regarding fines for non-compliance be forwarded to PIs.
- There is about to be a meeting to negotiate the campus's indirect rate for federal grants.

Nigar Khan:

- The Pakistan Government will be funding an exchange program with UMass Amherst.

Tony Butterfield:

- The travel grant program for graduate students awarded approximately \$17K in its last round.
- The campus's graduate fellowship competition will soon take place, with about \$200K to award.

Carol Sprague:

- The January cumulative reports (7 months) show us down about \$7.5M in awards accepted compared to the same measure one year ago. Various remarks were made indicating concern about the large drop.

Hilary Woodcock:

- We need a policy for bio-safety. Following that, the next issue will pertain to bio-security. This summer, the bio-safety committee will have a long meeting to generate a bio-safety policy.
- Susan Sturgeon has resigned from Research Council, and she was head of our Compliance Committee. Do we need to have the Compliance Committee meet on a

monthly basis? The committee could meet instead on an as-needed basis. (Right away, there was a volunteer for this committee that would never meet.)
Paul Utgoff:

- The Research Policy Committee met February 11th, and the meeting minutes are included in the handouts. The next committee meeting will be February 25th, not March 4th.

- The committee recommended a change to the Research Misconduct Policy. A sentence to be added to Section V.B.3 was discussed and then approved unanimously. The amended policy will be forwarded up the line for approval and adoption. The policy is a board-of-trustees policy for the Amherst campus. Bruce McCandless added that there is a national Office of Research Integrity that is reviewing all research campus policies. Copies of our current (unamended) policy have been submitted within the past month for review.

David Ostendorf:

- Dave plans to post last year's three policy recommendations on the Research Council web page. He will also add Chancellor Lombardi's and Provost Seymour's replies. There was discussion about whether any other replies, e.g. from the deans, were imminent, and no other replies are expected at the moment.

- The Rules Committee wants Research Council to have a role in the review of the UMass Nanotech Center. It is not yet clear what this role might be. During the discussion, it was mentioned that Centers should not make deals to have their indirect costs returned to them, instead that indirect costs should be collected in the standard way, and spent/invested in the standard way.