

RESEARCH COORDINATING COUNCIL
Memorandum #175

March 22, 2007

Members Present:

Jim Bigelow	Phil Blick	Chris Daniels
Deb Easterly	Larry Ford	Paul Hathaway
Dianne Horrocks	Lori Johnson	Scot Kelchner
Bennett Palmer	Beverly Ray	Fred Risinger
Sue Schou	Sharon Sieber	Al Strickland

Alternates: Neill Piland for Beth Hudnall Stamm

Absent: Sean Anderson, Steven Byers, Linda Deck, Kay Flowers, Christina Rosen Galvin, Richard Inouye, Subbaram Naidu, Alba Perez, Keith Weber, Doug Wells

Dr. Larry Ford declared there was a quorum present and called the meeting to order.

I. Approval of Minutes

Al Strickland moved to accept the minutes as written, Jim Bigelow seconded the motion. (Memorandum #173). Jim Bigelow moved to accept the minutes as written, Beverly Ray seconded the motion (Memorandum #174) Dr. Ford requested that Memorandum #174 reflect that there was not a quorum present and the minutes are a report of the unofficial meeting.

II. Reports

- A. Faculty Research Committee (FRC) – Dr. Bennett Palmer reported that FRC chose four Outstanding Researchers. They are as follows: Dr. David Adler, Dr. Nancy Huntly, Dr. Paul Link and Dr. Susan Swetnam. The FRC Call for Proposals has gone out and proposals are due on April 9th.
- B. Graduate Student Research and Scholarship Committee (GSRSC) – Mr. Paul Hathaway reported that proposals were due yesterday and the committee will be meeting soon to review the proposals.
- C. Undergraduate Student Research Committee (UgRC) – Ms. Sue Schou reported that the committee received 9 research proposals and 3 travel proposals. The committee will meet next week to award the grants. The Undergraduate Research Symposium will be held on April 12, 2007 at 3:00 pm in the Chemistry Building. The College of Engineering will also be participating in the poster session.
- D. University Research Committee (URC) – Dr. Larry Ford reported that the Call for Proposals has gone out and proposals are due on April 6th.

- E. Federal Initiatives – Dr. Larry Ford reported that in the 2007 budget we had one federal initiative on the House side for the Laser upgrade at IAC. We are asking for \$1.2M out of the 2008 Budget to complete the upgrade. Dr. Ford recently attended a meeting about the DOE University Assistance Programs Nuclear Energy Research Grants. Currently this program funds graduate students, reactor upgrades, and faculty grants. DOE wants to change that substantially focusing on collaborative projects with the national labs. With our new hires and the direction that DOE wants to go with this program ISU is situated to be competitive in this new program. DOE has approximately \$10M for the rest of 2007, with a call coming out early next week and collaborative proposals due in about a month. There are plans for a collaborative proposal between BSU and UI and perhaps another school. DOE is proposing to increase that fund for 2008 and onward to at least \$50-\$60M per year and will continue to increase it as the program grows.

III. Council Business

- A. Update on RCC Bylaws regarding Faculty Senate changes – Dr. Deb Easterly stated that the Bylaws were modified by the subcommittee and sent out to all members for review prior to this meeting. Dr. Ford suggested that we send the bylaws out electronically with track changes so everyone can see what changes have been made to the Bylaws. If you have comments or suggestions, make them to the document using the track changes and forward them on to Carole. We will then discuss the Bylaws at the next meeting.

There was discussion on the number of people who would be eligible to serve as the Chair of the committee. Currently there are only 8 members who are eligible. Dr. Ford suggested the council consider enlarging the voting membership to include some center directors as voting members, instead of ex-officio non-voting members. This would increase the pool of members who would be eligible to be the chair.

IV. Other Business

- A. WeLEAD – Dr. Easterly reported that WeLEAD had a successful symposium with approximately 30 people throughout the entire event. Research proposals are due next week. Visit the WeLEAD web site for more information.

Through the WeLEAD program, Dr. Easterly has been able to introduce female candidates for faculty positions to other female faculty on campus. Dr. Easterly stated that if any of the STEM departments have female faculty coming to campus, please feel free to contact the WeLEAD office to schedule a time for them to meet with a WeLEAD group.

- B. Miscellaneous – Dr. Easterly reported that on April 17, 2007 at 4:00 pm in Goranson Hall, Fine Arts Building we will be holding our Outstanding Researchers Colloquium featuring our four Outstanding Researchers.

On April 11, 2007 at 3:00 pm in the Bear River Room of the SUB, Marjorie Matocq

will be discussing NSF CAREER Grants.

Dr. Ford stated that we appreciate everyone who participated in the interview process for the VPR candidates. An offer was made to Dr. Bill Covington, but an agreement could not be reached and the offer was declined. The President, in consultation with the search committee, decided not to extend an offer to the two remaining candidates, and will resume the search in the fall. The President asked Dr. Ford to take the position of Interim Vice President for Research, effective July 1st. Dr. David Adler will chair the search committee which will stay intact for the most part.

Dr. Scot Kelchner thanked Dr. Ford for giving the overview of the Research Office budget as it pertains to the money for URC and FRC.

Dr. Kelchner brought up the issue of indirect costs. Many faculty are concerned that ISU is not using the modified total direct cost (MTDC) method.

Dr. Ford asked Ms. Lori Johnson to speak on this matter. Ms. Johnson stated that she just returned from a conference on this matter. The process is a very exciting but it is an enormous undertaking and will be a lengthy process.

Some of the requirements necessary before moving forward with this matter are:

- Space survey – every square foot of the campus has to be surveyed to determine how much space is used for research
- Equipment inventory – how much is used for research?
- Cautioned to not take on the long form process at the same time as we are bringing on a new ERP system.
- Put together a time frame
- Need written policy and procedures in place

The university's current rate is up December 2007. The President has indicated that we will ask for our one year extension while we decide how we are going to proceed.

With the Rendezvous building opening soon, plans are being made to consolidate Student Services and move all to the new building. The Office of Research and the Office of Sponsored Programs will move into the vacated space in the Administration Building. There is also a possibility that Grants and Contracts Accounting will be reassigned under the Office of Research, rather than Financial Services.

Another possible change concerns the distribution of indirect costs. The distribution of these funds may be put under the discretion of the Research office. If this happens, Dr. Ford said that the originating unit will still get a good portion of the funds.

Major proposal submissions in the past several weeks include:

LDRD Proposals to Battelle.

Large NSF proposal with Anthropology, Biology in amount of \$2M

NIH Cobre proposal submitted by Dr. Leslie Devaud

Several proposals from IRH in the next few months.

STARS Fund – Science and Technology Council proposed \$25M to enhance infrastructure at the three universities. The bill has made it through the legislature but has been reduced down to \$1.5M, to be split between the three universities.

The HERC Site visit for the Research Centers' competition is April 10th. There are three proposals: one from UI on bio-fuel, one from BSU on a biophysical research center, and one from ISU, the Idaho Center for Advanced Imaging. Our proposal is a collaboration between IAC, Physics, Chemistry, and Engineering, and requests \$900K over three years.

Meeting adjourned ~ 3:52 p.m.

Approved by Faculty Senate: May 10, 2007