



**Research Challenge Committee
Meeting of April 16, 2012
MINUTES**

Attendees: Sawicki, Jerzy – Chair
Goodell, Joanne
Tebeau, Mark
Belovich, Joanne
Mazumder, Barsanjit
Wilson, William

Guest: Weyman, Crystal

Absent/Excused: Austrian, Ziona
Krasniansky, Maria
Sridhar, Nigamanth
Komar, Anton
Long, Tim

1. Approval of Agenda for April 16, 2012 meeting
Insufficient members at beginning of meeting to vote
2. Approval of Minutes from February 2, 2012 meeting
Insufficient members at beginning of meeting to vote tabled to next RCC meeting
3. Pending and New Research Challenge Related Issues
 - a. Updates
 - Graduate Faculty Status – Crystal Weyman
Crystal told the RCC that she had distributed the survey to all Graduate Faculty and received 28 responses. Recommendation of the majority of the 28 respondents is for a minimum of two (2) peer reviewed journals/articles published within a five (5) year period in order to obtain Graduate Faculty status.
 - Out of State Tuition – Crystal Weyman
Crystal is working with Tim Long on this matter. No update provided at this time.
 - Internal Funding Programs – Jerzy Sawicki
12 FRD applications were received of which, one applicant was ineligible. Current funding level will allow for approximately 8 proposals to be funded
14 CSUFSI applications were received of which approximately 10 can be funded.

27 Doctoral Dissertation Research Expense Award applications were received, one application was ineligible. Two applicants requested fellowship. Current funding level will allow approximately 20 proposals to be funded.

The RCC recommended that the fellowship portion of the DDREAF be revised as follows:

Amount for funded external grant should be highest amount awarded. Amount for applying for, but not receiving external grant, should be awarded funds for effort.

Basic award of \$5,000 remains for regular applications

The RCC did not recommend the amounts that should be awarded for funded/applied for external grants.

b. Issues from Engineering faculty

Back-up power not available – RCC members were informed that back-up power is available for Stillwell Hall engineering is just not hooked up. Sawicki will work with Physical Plant to determine what is needed to get engineering on-line to back-up power source.

Environmental Health & Safety Staff – RCC members were concerned about the current staff's training for engineering's unique needs, such as requiring a fire hood for an instrument that does not produce fire/flames. The RCC recommended inviting Robert Grindley, Director Environmental Health and Safety who was hired recently to a future RCC meeting.

Physical Plant Charges – RCC members spoke of being charged \$2,000-\$6,000 for a simple electrical outlet move and other outrageous charges for small renovations in their laboratories. RCC members also expressed frustration because sometimes the submitted order is never addressed. RCC members requested the Chair, Jerzy Sawicki, inquire how the Indirect Cost Recovery funds provided by their external grants distributed to the University are accounted for and if those funds (or portions thereof) could be distributed to engineering for their specific laboratory needs.

Internal Proposal Reviews – The RCC expressed frustration that there is no internal technical proposal review process assistance at the University. The Chair informed the RCC that the University has advertised for an AVP to assist faculty/staff/administration with the grant writing/review process. The RCC inquired as to whether this person would be available to staff or if they will only work on large grant applications designated by administration. At this time, the RCC Chair does not know, but will put forth the RCC concerns.

Workshops – The RCC inquired about grant writing workshops, but did not specify whether internal or external availability was issue.

Travel Funds - RCC expressed interest in establishment of such a fund as an incentive for external grant application.

Teaching – RCC inquired about avenue for tenure/promotion for faculty member that just wants to teach.

- c. Discussion
No further discussion.
- d. Next steps/Pending Issues:
 - Out of State Tuition – J. Sawicki and C. Weyman
 - Physical Plant – Explanation of charges and Indirect Cost Recovery impact
 - Power Back-up for Engineering – Sawicki
- 4. New Business
Community engagement in research – OBOR requirement beginning Fiscal Year 2013
- 5. Next Research Challenge Committee meeting – Fall 2012

Meeting adjourned at 1:15pm – Everyone have a wonderful summer and I look forward to seeing you in the Fall.