

RESEARCH CHALLENGE COMMITTEE
August 31, 2010

Present: George Walker, Jerzy Sawicki, Ziona Austrian, Tim Long, Maria Krasniansky, Joanne Goodell, Anton Komar, Barsanjit Mazumder, William Wilson

Absent/Excused: Joanne Belovich, Nigamanth Sridhar, Mark Tebeau

Guests: Surendra Tewari

Dr. Walker addressed the group.

- This committee is an important asset to overcome the challenges within the university that impede moving forward in research.
- Dr. Walker suggests identifying two or three major issues impacting research, work to solve them, and convey the information/new policy to the university community
- Some issues will involve faculty/researchers and some issues will involve administration

The Agenda was approved as submitted.

The Minutes of May 11, 2010 were approved as written.

Dr. Sawicki reviewed the Agenda and introduced Dr. Surendra Tewari, who will speak to the issue of faculty summer salary calculation.

The major issues the Committee has agreed to address are:

1. Faculty summer salary calculation
2. Graduate tuition surcharge
3. Compensation policy for post-docs and research associates (grant-funded positions)
4. Grant hiring issues
5. Indirect cost recovery distribution
6. PeopleSoft various issues
7. Publicizing resources

Dr. Sawicki proposes a “problem-solving” strategy, which involves, a) discussion/analysis of the issue, 2) forming sub-committees to work out solution details, 3) sub-committee’s report to the Research Challenge Committee, 4) the Research Challenge Committee will make solution recommendations to Dr. Walker for his implementation.

The Committee discussed the challenges of each issue.

1. Faculty Summer Salary Calculation

- The current calculation is 33.3%, based on a 9 month academic appointment
- Dr. Tewari presented a brief history of the percentage calculation
 - 34.7% in 1999, reduced to 33.3%
 - Calculation is based on a 9 month contract, but in fact contracts specify dates not months
 - Reported work, on faculty paychecks, is in hours
 - Information from other Ohio universities shows percentages as high as 45%
 - A balance needs to be found between teaching load and research load
 - Teaching in the lab is also “teaching”
 - Additional incentives for PI’s will spur overall additional research

2. Graduate Tuition Surcharge

- The non-resident surcharge is \$637.55 for doctoral candidates and \$890 for Master’s for fiscal year 2011; majority of graduate students are Master’s students
- Most of this surcharge is covered by the University for students
- Some charges are paid from grant money
- Tim Long presented a short history of the surcharge/fee
 - State requires only that there **is** a surcharge but does not specify how much is has to be
 - Surcharge fee used to be double of resident fee; later reduced to 40% for doctorals
- It was suggested that the surcharge fee, for non-residents, be the same for Master’s and doctoral students
 - Students have occasionally manipulated their registration—doctoral to Master’s—because of the discrepancy in the surcharge fee
- The Committee believes the surcharge should be lowered
 - Tim Long cautioned that reducing the amount would also impact the financial side and produce less revenue
 - It was generally felt, however, that reducing the surcharge would increase the numbers of students and produce more subsidy money

3. Compensation Policy for Post-docs and Research Associates (grant-funded positions)

- Additional factors should be considered for compensation such as degree of specialization, discipline, funding availability and the competitive salaries/stipends paid by other universities

4. Grant Hiring Issues

- Better communication with Human Resources
- Faculty assistance with forms

5. Indirect Cost Recovery Distribution

- It is felt that the PI percentage should increase to 10% (from 5%) by taking 1% from the department, 1% from the College, and 3% from the University General Fund

6. PeopleSoft Issues

- While there are many issues with viewing grant status in PeopleSoft, a new software program for grant management, should solve most of the current problems
- It was felt that the Purchasing system should be online
- Following the timeline of the grant, instead of the fiscal year, would facilitate many issues

- It will be important for the new grants management software to be compatible with Mac systems, also

7. Publicizing Resources

- A wider publicity range has been discussed

Dr. Sawicki indicated that these issues could be debated ad infinitum. The Committee needs to focus on how to start a change process, how to handle each issue, and to devise a problem solving strategy. He presented the sub-committees for each item. Sub-committees will meet, discuss, and devise a solution which will be presented to the Research Challenge Committee.

1. Faculty Summer Salary Calculation & Indirect Cost Distribution (issues #1, # 5)
 - a. Barsanjit Mazumder, Chair
 - b. Tim Long
 - c. Surendra Tewari (guest)
 - d. Craig Zullig (guest)
2. Graduate Tuition Surcharge (issue #2)
 - a. Joanne Belovich, Chair
 - b. Nigamanth Sridhar
 - c. Tim Long
 - d. Crystal Weyman (guest)
3. Compensation Policy for Post-docs and Research Associates (grant-funded positions) & Grant Hiring Issues (issues #3, #4)
 - a. Anton Komar, Chair
 - b. Maria Krasniansky
 - c. Ziona Austrian
 - d. Mark Tebeau
4. PeopleSoft Issues & Publicizing Resources (issues #6, #7)
 - a. Joanne Goodell, Chair
 - b. William Wilson
 - c. Mark Tebeau
 - d. Craig Zullig

Next meeting—Two more meetings need to be scheduled for the semester. Suggested days are:
October 21 or 27 and December 7 or 8

Committee members are encouraged to email Maribeth (m.a.kralik@csuohio.edu) with their availability.

The issue of teaching labs/teaching loads will be on the next Research Challenge Committee agenda.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:35 a.m.

