**UNL Research Council**

**February 13, 2015, 151B Whittier Research Center**

**MINUTES**

***Present:*** Professors Awada, Burnett, Christensen, Enders, Hachtmann, Jones, Olson, Soh, Zhang and AVCR Goddard.

***Call to Orde*r:** Awada called the meeting to order at 1:03 p.m.

***Approval of Minutes November 25, 2014:***  Zhang mentioned his name should be included as attending this meeting. Motion made to accept the minutes as corrected. Motion seconded and approved.

***Nebraska Lecture Series nominations:*** Awada reminded the members that nominations for the Nebraska Lecture Series were being accepted until March 2, 2015. Mari will put all of the nomination materials out on Blackboard after they’re received and let the members know when they can access the files. The nominations will be reviewed and discussed at the next meeting.

***Symposia/Distinguished Lecturer and Visiting Scholar applications:*** Awada reminded the members that faculty will be submitting applications for Symposia/Distinguished Lecturer and Visiting Scholar funds until March 13, 2015. Awada said Azzam is not available to review these applications with Olson, so she asked for volunteers to assist in the review process. No one volunteered, so Awada said she would assist Olson with the reviews. After the applications have received the appropriate administrative approvals in NUgrant, Mari will notify Awada and Olson when they can start reviewing the applications. Funding recommendations for these applications will be presented at the next meeting.

Awada mentioned that she’ll become the Interim Associate Dean for Research at IANR at .50 FTE, effective March 1, 2015. She asked AVC Goddard if this interim appointment would cause any conflicts with her role as Research Council chair.

Hachtmann mentioned that she is currently serving as the interim Associate Dean in Journalism and she also wanted to make sure this interim appointment wouldn’t cause any conflicts with her role on the Council. AVC Goddard said he didn’t think it would be a problem/conflict for either situation, but he would double check to make sure.

***Review policy on maximum allowable funds request for ORED Seed Grants, Grants-in-Aid category:*** There was discussion about the flexibility of moving funds around in the money the Council receives from the Foundation each year. Goddard mentioned the Arts & Humanities grants program that runs separately as an ORED internal competition. This program requires a 25% match from the college and/or department. Goddard also mentioned the humanities disciplines can submit proposals to the Research Council for Grant-in-Aid funds and to ORED for Layman funding.

There was discussion about previous proposal submissions that probably should have been submitted to the Grant-in-Aid category, but they were submitted as Faculty Seed Grants. It was suggested the Grant-in-Aid amount be changed to $7,500 for an individual, if you want to make a change. Some humanities departments don’t have the funds available to make the 25% match that’s required on the Arts & Humanities applications.

RFA’s – Goddard brought up the consequences of changing the Grant-in-Aid to $7,500 without having the requirement of applying for external funding, why would faculty apply for the Layman award? Awada talked about possibly raising the funding amount $1,000 on both the Grant-in-Aid and Faculty Seed Grants. If the Faculty Seed Grant amount is raised, will that take away from the Layman submissions?

Burnett thought the social scientists and engineering faculty applying for Faculty Seed Grants would think $10,000 would be too small an amount for purchasing the equipment they would need for their research. There was further discussion about the Faculty Seed Grants and it was decided to leave that funding amount the same.

Goddard talked about the Arts & Humanities submissions received during the past year, he said the numbers were down and it’s possible the program could be discontinued.

There was discussion on raising the Grant-in-Aid individual application amount to $7,500 and keeping the joint amount at $10,000. There was a motion to raise the Grant-in-Aid individual application amount to $7,500 and keeping the joint amount at $10,000, effective with the Fall 2015 deadline. The motion was seconded and approved.

***Revise and clarify the “General Selection Criteria” for Seed Grants funding:*** There was discussion on the Faculty Seed Grants RFA, changing the wording in the “Scope of Awards” and changing the points allocated for each item in the “General Selection Criteria”. Goddard talked about the Research Council’s responsibilities, if the wording/requirements are changed regarding the external funding submissions, who is going to follow up to make sure those requirements are met? There was additional discussion on the wording in the Faculty Seed Grant RFA.

There was a motion made to change the wording in the Faculty Seed Grant, Request for Proposals, Scope of Awards, 2nd bulleted point to read “Award recipients are expected to submit a proposal for competitive external funding within 12 months of the end of the Faculty Seed Grant period.” Also changing the General Selection Criteria to read as follows: Proposals must address these criteria (100 point scale): 1) Scientific or scholarly merit and relevance (40 points); 2) Plan for generating external funding (30 points); 3) Qualifications and duties of project personnel (15 points); 4) Budget and facilities (15 points), effective with the Fall 2015 deadline. The motion was seconded and approved.

Enders asked if it’s possible to create a new award that would promote entrepreneurial activities. Possibly a Grant-in-Aid for this idea? Or, alternating every 2 years, Interdisciplinary & Faculty Seed Grants with Entrepreneurial Grants. There was discussion on the current SBITTR programs that are available to faculty. Goddard said he would check to see if there’s Foundation and/or ORED funds available that could support this idea/program.

***Faculty mentoring – research grants development:*** Awada talked about faculty mentoring and said there’s not much support at the associate professor level, it would be nice to have someone to guide/talk about what’s expected after a faculty member is promoted from assistant to associate professor. Awada also talked about the one year leadership program that she participated in, she said she learned a lot in the program.

Goddard mentioned ORED’s Research Development Fellows Program (RDFP) that’s available to early career faculty. ORED also has an annual grant writing workshop that faculty can attend to get suggestions/tips/pointers on how to successfully write a proposal to submit to external funding agencies. Goddard also mentioned the possibility of ORED creating a leadership development program and targeting associate professors to be leaders. We need more leaders to run committees, run teams for large center proposals, and run interdisciplinary centers. Goddard also talked about ORED’s proposal development team and how they can help faculty with developing/writing proposals for external funding. Goddard said he could see the Research Council members helping to organize a leadership workshop for UNL faculty.

***Other items:*** Jones mentioned she will be on sabbatical during the spring semester of 2016. Mari will send out a doodle poll to find a date for the next meeting. Awada reminded the members that there will be quite a bit of business to cover during that meeting, so plan for it to last at least 90 minutes.

***Adjournment:*** There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 2:15 p.m.