**UNL Research Council**

**Whittier Research Center**

**October 26, 2011**

**MINUTES**

# Present: Professors Albrecht, Bloom, Ford, González-Allende, Hoff, Kamble, Ladunga, Marx, Sarroub, Shipley, Swearer and VC Paul

# Absent: Professor Ferguson

# Guests: Professors Awada, Edwards, and Forde

**Recognition Celebration for Out-going Members:** Swearer recognized past council members Tala Awada, Rick Edwards and Ed Forde for their outstanding service to the council. Joe Barycki was unable to attend. His certificate and gift will be sent via campus mail. Members applauded the outgoing members for a job well done. Swearer thanked Kamble for suggesting this recognition.

**Call to Order**: Swearercalled the meeting to order at 2:03 p.m. Hoff suggested introductions be made as this is the first meeting for some members.

**Approval of the Minutes – September 6, 2011**: Motion was made to approve the minutes from the September meeting. Motion seconded and approved.

**Wilhite Lecture:** Swearer asked for comments about Don Wilhite’s lecture on October 25th. Bloom said the lecture was good, and it is clear that UNL is doing things in the area of drought.

**Applications Received from the October 14th Deadline:**  Swearer reviewed the number of applications received for the 5 categories: Interdisciplinary Grants – 12; Faculty Seed Grants – 28; Grants-In-Aid – 20; Visiting Scholars – 26; and Symposia/Distinguished Lecturers – 7

Discussion was held on allocating additional funds to Visiting Scholars. Swearer suggested the discussion be continued at the next meeting after we see the quality of the applications. A question came up about the Faculty Seed Grant review and why they are split into two subcommittees. Swearer explained that due to the large number of applications received, Peg divides the category into two groups.

Swearer also noted that a question came up about whether or not the references are part of the 5 page limit, or can they be separate. Kamble thought they should be part of the 5 pages. The USDA and NSF both allow references to be additional. Sarroub thought that it was difficult enough to limit a proposal to 5 pages. The recommendation was made to allow additional pages for references.

**Faculty Senate Report:** Swearer will present the Council report to the Senate in early November. Sarroub said faculty are very interested in the allocation of funds to the different categories. Swearer remarked that quality should be the priority. Sarroub said that Awada answered the senate last year with the fact that they elect the

faculty to this committee. Swearer will keep the Council informed on the outcome of the presentation. Sarroub suggested that we just report total awards and not the detailed break out.

**Nebraska Lecture Series:** Swearer asked if we should send out a call for new nominations as indicated in the policy. Copies of the current call for nominations were distributed for review. Swearer suggested this discussion be tabled until the next meeting.

**Remarks Vice Chancellor Paul:** Paul thanked all members for the great work they do on behalf of the Council. As the Chancellor indicated in his state of the university address, he has given us goals for funded research and national recognition for faculty. He and Deb Hamernik have visited with most of the deans on agenda items and plans for their colleges. The Office of Research is also working on a research plan for the next 6 years. This will be shared with the Council once we have input from the deans and other key personnel. Strategies and areas of emphasis – these are big ideas and he looks forward to sharing the information. He welcomes input from the Council. Hopefully this information will be ready to put on the agenda for the next Council meeting. Swearer thanked Paul for his comments.

Bloom inquired about the suggestion to have the interdisciplinary grant award winners give presentations at the Research Fair. Paul said they have the program set for this year but it certainly could be a possibility for next spring.

Swearer asked if there was any other business. Next month we will evaluate and make recommendations for funding proposals. It was recommended that Peg do a doodle poll for the next meeting, before Thanksgiving if possible.

**Adjournment:** Swearer adjourned the meeting at 2:30 p.m.