**UNL Research Council**

**Whittier Research Center**

**September 6, 2011**

**MINUTES**

***Present:*** Professors Bloom, Ferguson, Ford, Gonzalez-Allende, Kamble, Ladunga, Marx, Sarroub, Shipley, Swearer and IAVCR Hamernik

***Absent:*** Professors Albrecht and Hoff

***Call to Order:*** Swearer called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

***Welcome New Members:*** Introductions were held.

***Approval of Minutes – April 28, 2011 Meeting:*** Motion was made to approve the minutes from the regular meeting, as well as the Nebraska Lecture minutes. Motion seconded and approved.

***Subcommittee Assignments:*** Swearer reviewed with members the subcommittee assignments for the year. She indicated that a large part of our role is to allocate lectureship and research funds campus wide. Each subcommittee will review their assigned proposals that are posted on Blackboard and then share their recommendations with the entire group at the November meeting.

***Deadlines:*** fall applications are due October 14, 2011 and spring applications are due March 19, 2012.

***Nebraska Lecture Series:*** Don Wilhite, Director of the School of Natural Resources, will present the fall lecture October 25 at 3:30 p.m. in the Nebraska Union Auditorium on city campus with a reception following the lecture. Discussion held on whether or not to do a call for new nominations each year. This will be added to the October agenda to clarify the Council process for soliciting nominations. Swearer encouraged everyone to attend the presentation.

***Budget:*** Discussion was held on increasing the funding level for the Visiting Scholar category. Ladunga indicated that last year we received higher quality applications for Symposia and Distinguished Lecturers than Visiting Scholars. His subcommittee agreed that they should focus on science as we are a scientific institution. They would rather support a larger number of applications with lower amounts of funding.

Ford said given the overall distribution of funding, he questions whether the funds are better spent giving a larger amount to one person vs. giving smaller amounts to several people. He would support increasing the amount of funding to the Visiting Scholar category. Ladunga said the Distinguished Lecturer applications are normally for a higher level scholar, and are appealing to a larger group of people. Swearer reviewed what our guidelines state with regard to the scope of Visiting Scholars, Distinguished Lecturers and Symposia. She said we need to stay flexible with the budget for all categories. Historically, we do not see the level of quality in the Visiting Scholar category, and the same faculty apply repeatedly. Decision was made to wait to increase the Visiting Scholar allocation until we see what applications are received.

***Monthly Meeting Dates/Times:*** Peg will re-poll members for the October meeting. We would like to find a time that works for everyone’s schedule, and that would be a regular meeting time for the remainder of the semester.

***Other Items***: Bloom asked if there is anything the Council can do on a larger scale. Swearer noted that Council members need to be the voices going back to their departments and encourage faculty to apply for Council funding.

Hamernik said the Research Advisory Board met recently and there was discussion on what larger grant opportunities are out there, and how do you motivate faculty to compete for them. How do you get the teams together and help faculty find other collaborators on campus. What can administrators do to help with this effort? We need to have the entire campus engaged. The Office of Research is open to your suggestions on how to help faculty.

Bloom noted the fall Research Fair is coming up in November. If “interdisciplinary” is the buzz, it might be a good idea to have faculty who were awarded interdisciplinary grants last year give presentations on their projects. This would be an opportunity to see what was done with the funds. We should celebrate these faculty and their projects and have a reception for them. Another suggestion was to have them share how they found collaborators, or have a panel discussion. Hamernik said there has been discussion about inviting program officers from federal agencies to attend and talk with faculty, or having an industry round table.

Ford suggested this language be added to our call for proposals, i.e., recipients of Interdisciplinary Grants will be asked to make a presentation on their project during the Research Fair or some other venue. Hamernik will talk with the Research Fair committee about incorporating these presentations into the schedule.

Discussion was held on the AAU ouster. Are there concerns about it and should we be within the AAU prevue. The Research Council is not a political body.

Kamble suggested we consider recognizing out-going members for their service to the Council. We could present them with certificates of appreciation and have a small reception. There was unanimous agreement to recognize the members that rotate off the Council each year. Peg will make certificates and handle the arrangements.

Everyone agreed we should continue having meetings at different locations around campus. Ford volunteered a location in Architecture, and Kamble will find a location on East Campus.

***Adjournment:*** There being no further business, motion was made to adjourn.