**UNL Research Council**

**October 3, 2013**

**MINUTES**

***Present:*** Professors Awada, Azzam, Burnett, Enders, Ferguson, Gonzalez-Allende, Hachtmann, Powers, Sarroub, Shipley, AVC Werum and Lance Perez, Associate Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs.

***Call to Orde*r:** Bloom called the meeting to order at 9:33 a.m.

***Approval of Minutes March 28, 2013:***  Motion made to accept the minutes as distributed. Motion seconded and approved.

***UNL Research and the Committee on Institutional Cooperation (CIC):*** Perez gave an overview of the CIC and how it works with the member institutions. With Rutgers University and the University of Maryland joining the Big Ten in July, this will increase the membership to 15 institutions. The cooperative has no authority, the Provosts own the CIC. The CIC Libraries is the biggest in the country and the work with Google on the book search program has been very successful. There’s also a tremendous leadership development program that faculty can take advantage of.

Perez went on to discuss the cooperation between member institutions regarding some of the research being done. The first big pilot program is the collaborative research effort with UNL and other Big Ten institutions and athletics on brain concussions, with the lab/research space being built in the east wing of Memorial Stadium.

Burnett asked about APR’s and Promotion and Tenure changes since UNL joined the Big Ten. Perez thinks the composition of large teams for the APR’s has helped overall and believes the members have received great feedback. Perez also said it’s a little too early to notice a lot of changes regarding promotion and tenure.

Burnett and Sarroub mentioned promotion and tenure files from other Big Ten institutions are different from UNL’s and if a specific format is needed for those files, then we need to know what format to use or provide.

***Nebraska Lecture Series:***  Approximately 200 people attended Timothy Gay’s, April 5 lecture, this included OLLI members.

Bloom said he passed the names of Susan Swearer and Stephen Behrendt on to VC Paul as candidates for the fall 2013 and spring 2014 lecture series. The office of research is looking to see if Swearer can do the fall lecture.

***Research Council RFP’s:***  Werum will look at the RFP’s for all of the Research Council’s programs, she would like them all to look the same. The focus right now will be on the three large competitions, faculty seed grants, grants-in-aid and the interdisciplinary grant. Discussion on adding these items to the submission criteria: 200 - 250 word abstract, 2 page CV, description of work and listing internal and external funding received. Werum would also like to add some ORED general guidelines for all internal competitions. Other changes were suggested and noted. Werum will work on the suggested changes then email a draft copy to the council members in May, asking for comments/feedback.

A motion was made to add the following to the RFP’s for the Research Council competitions: Add Research Council to the top of the page, add abstract, separate out #4 with a page limit, add current and pending support, and summarize the outcome of previous funding from ORED in the last 5 years – 1 page max. Motion seconded and approved.

***Election of Council Vice-Chair for 2013 - 2014:*** Ballots were given to the members present. Tala Awada received the most votes and will be the vice-chair for 2013-2014.

***Enabling post-tenure faculty research:*** Discussion was held on how faculty can continue to do their research after receiving tenure. Some issues: lack of funds for professional development or taking sabbatical to continue/pursue research/writing. This is especially true in Arts & Sciences where 20 – 30% of faculty are in the humanities field. It seems the buying out of courses is not equal between departments or colleges.

Faculty would like to see their teaching loads lightened and reduce their service obligations. Is it possible there are funds available from ORED to help with some of these issues? Werum wasn’t sure there were funds available in the ORED budget for these kind of items, since these decisions are usually handled within the college. Other possibilities: some sort of developmental leave to work on research/writing. Discussion on some grant writing workshops available for faculty to attend.

***Adjournment:*** There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:50 a.m.