**UNL Research Council**

**April 27, 2012**

**MINUTES**

***Present:***  Professors Albrecht, Bloom, Ferguson, Gonzalez-Allende, Ladunga, Marx, Sarroub, Shipley, and AVCR Hamernik

***Absent:*** Professors Ford, Hoff, Kamble and Swearer

***Call to order:*** Chair Swearer is out of town; Vice Chair Bloom presided over the meeting. He called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m. and welcomed Council members to the final meeting of 2011-2012 academic year.

***Approval of Minutes, February 27, 2012 Meeting:*** Motion made to accept the minutes as distributed. Motion seconded and approved.

***Nebraska Lecture Series:*** the Nebraska Lecture held March 28th with Jo Potuto went very well. Attorneys attending the lecture were offered one hour of continuing legal education credit, which helped boost attendance. Very good turnout and good engagement from the audience.

Approximately a year ago, at VC Paul’s suggestion, the Council forwarded three nominations (Potuto, Baenziger and Gay) for his consideration for lecturers and he accepted all three nominations. Steve Baenziger and Timothy Gay will be the next two lectures. We have a firm date of November 1, 2012 for the Baenziger lecture. Tim Gay will lecture in the Spring of 2013. Discussion held on whether we should release a call for new nominations at this time, or wait because we are a year out. Bloom and Swearer propose not doing anything now and releasing a call for new nominations in the Spring of 2013. Discussion followed. Council members agreed we should do the next call for nominations in the Spring 2013.

***Approval of Visiting Scholar and Symposia Applications – March 19, 2012 Deadline:*** Ladunga and Swearer served as the subcommittee for this round. Ladunga distributed information on funding recommendations. The budget for both categories is $10,500. We received 2 Symposia applications and the subcommittee recommends funding both applications. Ladunga asked for comments. Applications were discussed. The funding we provide will not fund the entire event on either application. Discussion held on the level of funding for each application. Ferguson said we should let the subcommittee speak to the quality of the proposals. Complete budgets were not included in either of these proposals. Bloom asked for a recommendation on how to proceed. It was decided the subcommittee has made good judgment in their recommendation. Motion was made to fund the History application at $3,000 and the Modern Languages application at $1,225. Motion seconded and approved.

We received 12 Visiting Scholar applications. In the review, they found most applications very strong. The subcommittee recommends funding 9 applications. Discussion held on why there are not more departments represented in the pool of applications. Motion made to approve the subcommittee recommendation to fund 9 applications. Motion seconded and approved.

***Evaluation Forms:*** Discussion held on the new evaluation forms. The Interdisciplinary form has already been approved so we are reviewing forms for the four other categories. Hamernik developed these draft forms using the current evaluation criteria on our website. Bloom asked if anyone had a chance to review them; his concern is doing the review and approval of the forms on such short notice. The plan was to hold the vote until the first meeting of next fall, but if members have had a chance to review them he would like to move forward on a vote now. Lengthy discussion followed. It would be beneficial for applicants to see how applications will be judged. The forms should be posted on the Council website when they are approved. Hamernik noted all of the suggested changes and will make the revisions. Revised forms will be redistributed to Council members for their comments and review. Bloom thanked Hamernik for her efforts on this issue.

***Election of Vice Chair for AY2012-2013:*** Bloom said we need to elect a vice chair for next year. The vice chair sits in if the chair is not available, and will automatically serve as chair the following year. Eligible Council members are Julie Albrecht, Richard Ferguson, Iker Gonzalez-Allende and Loukia Sarroub. The vote is a tie. Sarroub asked if there can be co-vice chairs. Bloom will check with the Faculty Senate office. The voting process will be finished via email.

Peg will also contact the Faculty Senate office and ask that they let us know who the new members are for next year as soon as possible.

Bloom extended his appreciation to all members for their service to the committee this past year.

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