**UNL Research Council**

**December 12, 2013, 212 Jackie Gaughan Multicultural Center**

**MINUTES**

***Present:*** Professors Albrecht, Awada, Azzam, Burnett, Dawes, Gonzalez-Allende, Hachtmann, Powers, Sarroub, Soh and AVC Werum.

***Call to Orde*r:** Sarroub called the meeting to order at 12:35 p.m.

***Approval of Minutes November 18, 2013:***  Motion made to accept the minutes as distributed. Motion seconded and approved.

***Call for 2014-2015 Nebraska Lecturers:***

A draft copy of the call for nominations document was discussed and minor revisions were suggested. Sarroub will make the minor revisions and send them to Mari to distribute to the members. There was discussion on the list of nominations that were received in 2013. The new call for nominations will go out the first week of January, 2014.

***Recommended changes to RFA for Interdisciplinary Grant applications:*** Discussion about the NUgrant application form and the possibility of the template being modified to accommodate CV’s of co-investigators who aren’t in the NU system. Werum said the RIS team is aware of the situation and will be working to make changes to the template.

Discussion was held on changing the wording in the RFA instructions to read: “proposals that provide a clear, well thought-out path to external funding will receive higher funding priorities”. This wording could also be used in the RFA for Faculty Seed Grants.

Brief discussion was held on the RFA and the need to emphasize what the objectives of the proposal are, having teams explain how their activities contribute to the achievement of those objectives. Sarroub said Awada and Enders are working on this and asked that the discussion be tabled and continued at the next meeting.

Discussion was held on the Interdisciplinary Grant applications that were submitted from faculty in the humanities and social sciences, and the need for more funding for these areas/applications. Werum mentioned that ORED has an internal competition for Arts & Humanities grants that is available for faculty to apply for. Dawes talked about the tenure and promotion requirements, and how they’re different for departments and colleges in the humanities and social sciences. Hachtmann said the College of Journalism and Mass Communications also has internal grants available for faculty to apply for.

Hachtmann said the College of Journalism and Mass Communications is going away from email communications and said the Council/university should look at different ways to communicate funding availability.

Additional discussion was held on encouraging faculty to think “outside the box” when applying for external funding. Even though they’ve applied for funding at one agency, it doesn’t mean their research ideas couldn’t work with funding from a different agency too.

The pros and cons regarding the maximum amount of funding that should be awarded to one team was discussed. Should the maximum be $20,000, or, if the funds are available and the proposal is well presented, should they be awarded more? Sarroub said she set this year’s budget by percentages that were similar to what was allocated last year for each category. Sarroub also said the committee has the flexibility to give $20,000 even if the application requests more. Sarroub noted that reviewers ought to respect the PIs budget requests. Werum said ORED is supporting the Council in an advisory capacity only, it is up to the Council members to make the funding decisions. Werum reminded the members that the applications should always be judged on merit first. Dawes said the PI’s should justify going over the maximum amount and why.

***Review Guidelines that address multiple internal grant submissions from the same PIs within 4 years and its role in the evaluation and ranking of proposals:*** Sarroub explained the issue that occurred during the review of applications, some sub-committees didn’t apply the RFA requirements equally. Werum discussed the possibility of keeping options open/flexible for faculty to apply for funding, and asked if the members wanted to reword the RFA’s? Albrecht asked, when looking at the criteria, did the previous internal funding lead to external funding? Powers said the wording should be changed. Soh said the Council should consider past awards. Werum suggested the members send any RFA rewording eligibility information/text to Awada and Sarroub prior to the next meeting (January or February, 2014).

Sarroub said she and Awada would put together the new wording for the RFA’s third bullet point under “Eligibility Information” that discusses UNL faculty not receiving awards for more than two internal grants as a PI over any 4-year period.

***Nebraska Lecture Series:*** Sarroub reminded members that Stephen Behrendt will be the speaker for the next lecture, which will be held on April 16, 2014 at 2:30 p.m. in the Nebraska Union Auditorium.

***Mentoring and Research across the Faculty Life Span:*** Sarroub would like to discuss this at the next meeting, if possible.

***Next meeting:*** Sarroub asked Mari to do a Doodle poll for the next meeting, to be held sometime after January 16 or in early February, 2014.

***Adjournment:*** There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 1:50 p.m.