**UNL Research Council**

**February 26, 2013**

**MINUTES**

***Present:*** Professors Albrecht, Bloom, Burnett, Enders, Ferguson, Gonzalez-Allende, Ladunga, Sarroub, Shipley, AVCR Werum and AVCR Preston.

***Call to Orde*r:** Bloom called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m. He welcomed members and Associate Vice Chancellor for Research Kurt Preston.

***Approval of Minutes January 15, 2013:***  Motion made to accept the minutes as distributed. Motion seconded and approved.

***Comments from AVCR’s Werum and Preston:*** Werum and Preston both gave a little background information about themselves and explained what some of their duties will be in the Office of Research and Economic Development.

***National Strategic Research Institute (NSRI) overview by Dr. Kurt Preston:*** Preston described the March 4 Table Top Exercise that will be held here at UNL, hoping to demystify Dept. of Defense research. Preston went on to explain how the University Approved Research Center (UARC) here in Nebraska will be different from the 13 other UARC’s across the U.S. Preston then answered questions from Council members. Preston thanked the Council for giving him the opportunity to talk about the NSRI.

***Spring Nebraska Lecture:*** Timothy Gay, Physics & Astronomy will make his presentation, “Football: It’s Physics and Future” on April 5, 2013 at 12:15 p.m. in the West Stadium, Club Level. Bloom will serve as the moderator for the event.

***Nebraska Lecturer Nominations:***  As of right now, we have three new nominations. The deadline to submit nominations is March 1, 2013 by 5:00 p.m.

***Spring Visiting Scholars/Symposia/Distinguished Lecturer:***  The deadline for submitting these applications in NUgrant is Monday, March 18 by 5:00 p.m.

***Mentoring Junior Faculty:*** Discussion on how to get more people engaged in research. Are there departments doing things on campus that seem to be working? There was discussion on how some departments assign every Assistant Professor a mentor. It seems like Associate Professors are being asked to do more and more and it doesn’t leave a lot of time for anything else. Ferguson said he would send a summary of the Agronomy & Horticulture’s mentoring program to Bloom. Additional discussion on how the teaching loads vary from one college/department to the next. Burnett and Gonzales-Allende commented on the scarcity of outside funding for humanities research. Mentoring junior humanities faculty should include better training in writing winning grant applications. Bloom would like to have more discussion on this topic at the April meeting.

***Remaining Meetings for Spring Semester 2013:*** The next meeting will be held on Thursday, March 28 at 10:00 a.m. in 145.1 Morrison. Following the meeting, Dr. Charles Wood will give Council members a tour of the Morrison building.

***Adjournment:*** There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:25 a.m.

After the meeting, Dr. David Sellmyer gave Council members a tour of the Voelte-Keegan Nanoscience Research Center.