**UNL Research Council**

**February 3, 2014, 344A Whittier Research Center**

**MINUTES**

***Present:*** Professors Albrecht, Awada, Azzam, Burnett, Enders, Hachtmann, Sarroub, Soh and AVCR Werum.

***Call to Orde*r:** Sarroub called the meeting to order at 1:06 p.m.

***Approval of Minutes December 12, 2013:***  Motion made to accept the minutes as distributed. Motion seconded and approved.

***Change in RFA wording for the third bullet point: Faculty Seed and Interdisciplinary Grants:***

After discussion, new text for the third bullet point in the RFA’s for the Faculty Seed and Interdisciplinary Grants was voted on and approved. The new text for this bullet point will now read “UNL faculty can be awarded **only one** internal award from the Office of Research and Economic Development as a PI in any academic year. UNL faculty who have not been awarded more than two internal grants as PI over any 4-year period will receive priority. Proposals that provide a clear, well thought-out path to external funding will receive funding priority.”

***Review of 2013 internal grant proposals: Evaluation forms and feedback to PIs:*** AVCR Werum talked about the evaluation forms used for the internal proposals and the feedback that the PIs receive regarding their applications. There was discussion on how some Council members completed the individual review forms in NUgrant and others did not. Some members mentioned they couldn’t get back in to their reviews in NUgrant to make changes after they’d been submitted. Regina will discuss this issue with the RIS team to see if there’s a way for Council members to get back in to those review forms to make changes, if needed.

Discussion regarding the Fall 2014 competition: should each member complete a review form for each application or should the sub-committee get together and submit their consensus comments for each application? Is it possible to put the evaluation form on the web so faculty know what they’re being judged on? Additional discussion on possibly changing the points awarded for each category. Does the Council want to use the evaluation form in the future? Discussed having each Council member submit their individual evaluation forms to the sub-committee chair and that person would fill out a consensus evaluation that would be submitted to each applicant.

***Mentoring and research across the faculty life span:*** Discussion and ideas on what could be improved at the department and/or college level. Some departments value the mentoring and research that faculty do, other departments aren’t as supportive. Additional discussion on faculty sabbaticals and how some departments encourage/support this time, while other departments do not. Members discussed other Big Ten universities and some of the policies and procedures at those institutions. If the University of Nebraska would restructure the sabbatical issue, it would have to benefit the faculty, department, college and university. Also, there would likely have to be a change to the current Board of Regents policy.

Discussion on the Research Council possibly providing a university wide internal competition to support faculty leave. Sarroub said she could submit a white paper to VC Paul regarding this idea.

***Announcements:***

***Nebraska Lecture Nominations:*** Nominations are due to Mari Greer by March 1, 2014 at 5:00 p.m.

***Deadline for Spring Visiting Scholar/Symposia/Distinguished Lecturer applications:*** Applications must be submitted in NUgrant by March 14, 2014 at 5:00 p.m.

***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.

***Next meeting:*** Sarroub asked Mari to do a Doodle poll for the next meeting, to be held sometime in March or April, 2014.

***Adjournment:*** There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 2:08 p.m.