**UNL Research Council**

**November 18, 2013, 203 Alexander West Building**

**MINUTES**

***Present:*** Professors Awada, Azzam (via Skype), Burnett, Enders, Ferguson, Gonzalez-Allende, Hachtmann, Powers, Sarroub, Soh and AVC Werum.

***Call to Orde*r:** Sarroub called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.

***Approval of Minutes October 3, 2013:***  Motion made to accept the minutes as distributed. Motion seconded and approved.

***Recommendations for Funding:***

Visiting Scholars/Symposia/Distinguished Lecturers: Sarroub asked Powers to leave the room during this discussion since he had submitted an application to this category. Soh and Azzam presented their recommendations. Azzam explained the reasons behind the recommendations and said the committee felt that the quality of the submitted applications was poor. Quite a few of the applicants didn’t present a clear schedule of events for the speakers’ visits, the submitted CV’s were too brief to show the proposed scholar/lecturers’ distinguished qualifications, (grantsmanship, papers, and research). The committee recommended funding three applications from those submitted for a total of $2,400. Discussion followed about the funds that were available for this category and only funding $2,400. Sarroub suggested the Council revisit the guidelines for this category for future competitions. Awada asked about the weight points of each category for these applications. The committee said they went by the guidelines that were on the evaluation forms. Discussion followed about possibly changing the RFA and review form for the next competition.

Grants-in-Aid: Gonzalez-Allende presented the committee’s recommendations, he said three of the applications were automatically disqualified from receiving funds since they had received two internal awards in the last four years. Additional discussion was held on individual applications and why they were or were not recommended for funding. Sarroub talked about the reviews submitted for each application. Sarroub asked that the members double check their wording and resubmit their comments (if needed), to her and Mari so they can be sent to the PI’s.

Faculty Seed Grants, Subcommittee #1: Ferguson presented the sub-committee’s funding recommendations and discussed the rationale for those recommendations. There was discussion on one application that wanted to use the funding over a three-year period. Werum mentioned all awards are for a one-year period, and the proposal could be funded with the understanding that the PI will ask for an extension to continue the work in the second year, however, continuing the funding for a third year would not be recommended, and that information can be conveyed in the award letter that Mari sends out.

Faculty Seed Grants, Subcommittee #2: Awada presented sub-committee’s recommendations and discussed the rationale for those recommendations.

Interdisciplinary Grants: Enders presented the sub-committee’s funding recommendations with the funds that were available to the committee. Enders added, if additional funds were available they’d like to fully fund one additional proposal. If that’s not a possibility, then there was another proposal that they would like to fund. The committee noted that some of the proposals were not written in lay terms, so it made it difficult to understand the scope of the work the PI wanted to do. Werum discussed the funds that were available from the other categories that did not fully use their allotted funds. Sarroub said she’d be comfortable moving funds from the other categories to the Interdisciplinary category to fully fund the one application that had been discussed earlier. Sarroub read an email that Enders and his committee had sent to her regarding NUgrant and attaching CV’s for Co-PI’s that are outside UNL. Werum said the RIS team is aware of the situation in NUgrant and it’s being worked on. There was discussion on changing the RFA’s and the evaluation criteria for the next competition. Sarroub said she’d like to form an ad-hoc committee to revise/add information to the RFA’s and asked for volunteers. Awada and Enders volunteered to be on the ad-hoc committee. If possible, Sarroub would like the ad-hoc committee to have their recommendations ready for the December meeting. Sarroub asked Enders and Ferguson to step out of the room, since they each were a Co-PI on a submitted application. The members then discussed the committee’s recommendations and which applications to approve for funding.

After much discussion, the members approved moving the unspent funds from the VS/DL, GIA and FSG categories to the Interdisciplinary Grants committee so they could fully fund their top six applications. The funding recommendations from the other committees that had been discussed during the meeting were also approved.

***Report to the Faculty Senate:*** Sarroub attended the November 5, 2013 Faculty Senate meeting and presented the report on the Research Council’s activities from the previous year. Sarroub said the meeting went well and there were no questions regarding the report.

***Nebraska Lecture Series:*** Sarroub announced that Stephen Behrendt will be the speaker for the Spring, 2014 lecture. The lecture will be held in March or April, 2014. The Office of Research and Economic Development is working out the details with Behrendt and the information will be passed on to the Council as soon as it’s finalized.

***Topics for Future Meetings: Mentoring and Research:*** Sarroub would like to discuss this at the next meeting if possible, given that the meeting lasted two hours.

***December 9 meeting:*** Sarroub said December 9 would not work for the next meeting. Mari would do a doodle poll to find a different date in early December to hold the next meeting.

***Adjournment:*** There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:20 p.m.