**UNL Research Council**

**April 30, 2015, 344A Whittier Research Center**

**MINUTES**

***Present:*** Professors Awada, Burnett, Christensen, Hachtmann, Jones, Olson, Powers, Zhang and AVCR Goddard.

***Call to Orde*r:** Awada called the meeting to order at 1:06 p.m. and thanked the members for their service on the Council this year and in the past two years.

***Approval of Minutes February 13, 2015:***  Motion made to accept the minutes as distributed. Motion seconded and approved.

***Kenneth Kiewra’s request for reconsideration of the Grant-in-Aid proposal he submitted for the October, 2014 deadline:*** There was a lot of discussion on this subject: Christensen thought this was a door that we don’t want to open at this time. Jones and Powers were the original reviewers of the application, Jones said the review comments that were made, were about qualitative not about quantitative. Jones also said she didn’t understand what the basis of Kiewra’s argument was. Awada mentioned that the burden is on the PI to communicate to a general audience. AVCR Goddard said he met with Kiewra and explained to him that the way the proposal was written, was interpreted differently than what Kiewra had discussed with Goddard. Olson said as a social scientist, she would not have funded the proposal as it was written. There was a motion made to reconsider funding Kenneth Kiewra’s Grant-in-Aid proposal. The motion was seconded. One person abstained, the motion failed. Awada will send an email to Kiewra informing him of the Council’s decision.

***Symposia/Distinguished Lecturer and Visiting Scholar applications:*** Olson and Awada presented their recommendations for the applications submitted for the March 13, 2015 deadline. There were eight visiting scholar applications submitted and one symposia. The recommendation was to fund seven of the eight visiting scholar applications for a total of $5,600 and fund the one symposia application for $800. There was a motion made to accept the committee’s recommendation for funding, it was seconded and approved. During the last couple of weeks, there were also two special opportunity fund applications submitted that Olson and Awada also reviewed. Olson and Awada determined these special opportunity requests met the criteria and both were funded for a total of $3,800.

***Election of a new Research Council vice chair for 2015 - 2016:*** Ballots were passed out to the members, so they could vote for the person to serve as vice chair in 2015 – 2016. There were four names on the ballot: Alan Christensen, Jeannette Jones, Kristen Olson and Luwen Zhang. After the ballots were counted, Kristen Olson was elected as vice chair for 2015 – 2016. Olson accepted the position.

***Update on information from the February 13 meeting (AVC Goddard):*** At the February meeting, both Awada and Hachtmann announced that they were currently serving or soon would be serving as Interim Associate Deans. Goddard announced that he found no problems with either Awada or Hachtmann continuing to serve on the Research Council while they had their Interim appointments.

Goddard also checked on possible funding for start-ups, spin-offs and/or other entrepreneurial activities. Goddard said at this time, there are no funds available for these proposals/activities. Goddard mentioned that NUtech Ventures has funding available for proposals. The NUtech funding is similar to angel funding.

***Other items:*** There being no other items for discussion, the meeting adjourned at 2:12 p.m.