University Research Council  
January 16, 2018  
Approved

Present: Rebecca Battista, Gabriele Casale, Elisabeth Cavallaro, Neel Das, Karen Fletcher, Tracy Goodson-Espy, Charna Howson, Lucinda McCray, Gary McCullough, Julia Pedigo, Jeff Ramsdell, Amy Roberts, Iryna Sharaievska, Caroline Smith, Robin Tyndall, Twila Wingrove, Alecia Jackson

Excused: Allan Duncan, Maurice Meilleur

Absent: Nicole Bennett, James Houser

Guests: Kate Hoffman, Katie Howard

Jeff Ramsdell called the meeting to order.

MINUTES: Motion to approve minutes from November 28, 2017. Motion passes.

New Business

URC Grant Competition Review Process – Karen Fletcher & Katie Howard

The Spring competition will be administered as usual. The application deadline for the Spring is March 13th at noon. A check box has been added to the budget template for applicants to note if they would like to be considered for partial funding if full funding was not possible. An additional check box was added for the panel chairs to add a two to three sentence justification of partial funding detail.

Should the $50,000 be broken into four different pools (based on four panels) of money?

A member spoke in favor of the target number divided by the number of total applications (division of the pie); it would level the playing field. Another member voiced concern about trying to level the playing field because other consequences would occur.

A different member suggested different funding amounts within different divisions to coincide with the needs of the proposals. Certain PIs could have more of a chance to bring in more Facilities and Administrative reimbursement receipts. Or split the amount where each division gets $6,000 or 25%. Some departments would not see the existing process as equitable due to the costs associated with research ($1,500 for one analysis). Did the current process undervalue some divisions?

Members were cautioned that if target funding numbers were provided, target numbers are just targets. Funding strong proposals should be the priority.
Another option would be increasing awards: Would $10,000 increase viability for external proposals? $10,000 if two faculty members collaborate?

Motion #1: There would not be a target amount based on the number of the top quality proposals for each panel.
Ten in favor, seven opposed, zero abstentions. Motion passes.

Members were advised that they should plan on a two-hour decision meeting on April 17th.

Changes to the decision meeting will include: a summary will be provided which will include total scores and/or the reason for recommending funding. Each panel will present the proposals they recommend for funding and if all the recommendations total above $50K, discussion will begin on the merits of each proposal. All rubric and instructions are the same for each panel, and the mission is for the awardees to apply for external funding.

College Level Internal Grant Programs – Jeff Ramsdell & Karen Fletcher

A list of internal grants (grant name and amount of award) across campus was requested from each URC member. A Google Form will be sent out for URC members to fill out.

An assessment of the current status of publication fees for dissemination of knowledge across campus was also requested from each URC member, and a Google Form will be sent out for members to fill out. A member commented that a college was less likely to approve payment of publications fees than Academic Affairs; and that the Provost was more likely to pay. Sometimes payment was promised, but not paid at the college or department level. Jeff Ramsdell wants to correct the current ad hoc system on campus. He urged each member to find out how their area deals with this topic and to bring the information back to the URC. Is this a big problem, or a little problem? What other forms of dissemination is being charged?

Brief Announcements

- Grants Resources and Services – Board of Trustees International Travel grant deadline is February 1st. Limited submissions are listed on the website. University Scholarships is now using the InfoReady Review system. There are two grant-related workshops scheduled a month this semester.
- Sponsored Programs – December stats include $8.4 million requested (down 10%) 74 proposals (down 6%). Awards are $8.1 million (up 7%). The grant manager COI position was re-posted and closes in February. An additional position will post at the end of the month.
- Research Protections – Will the Federal Rule take effect Friday? There are requests to delay the implementation. Rumor is the delay will be 6 months to a year. Some benefits of the new version takes administrative burden off researches.
• Office of Student Research - – Received 27 abstracts. The location of NCUR is University of Central Oklahoma.

• Office of Research – UNC CRO meeting joint with CAOs. A discussion of the eRA system continued and included: what happens if larger schools decide to leave the system? Fed Common Rule discussions continue as well. Publication fees help the product side of research. Any issues faculty have, please urge them to contact OR.

Adjournment – 4:56 pm