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Research Council Meeting : 2006 : 09 : 20

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UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH FLORIDA ST. PETERSBURG
Minutes of Faculty Research Council Meeting September 20, 2006 2:00 PM

Members Present: Cynthia Leung, Chair; John Arthur, Wei Guan, Ellen Hufnagel, Joyce Nutta, Eric Odgaard, Patricia Pettijohn, Pat Scott; Ex Officio: Chris D'Elia, Regional Associate Vice Chancellor for Research;

1. Corrections to the minutes—The deadline for NIRG & SIRG proposals is October 11, 2006. The minutes were accepted as amended. Cynthia Leung will post the minutes to the Faculty Senate website.

2. Pat Scott discussed the NIRG and SIRG grants. Chris D'Elia suggested that we consider any changes that we would like to make to the grants for USFSP (the funds are allocated to USFSP and are separate from Tampa). Ellen Hufnagel said that the Council agreed last year to merge the two grants. Dr. D'Elia asked the Council to consider issues that they would like to bring to the faculty regarding changes to the internal awards. Cynthia Leung said that perhaps we might consider allowing collaborative submissions. Under the current guidelines, faculty could each submit separate proposals with aspects of the same project. Joyce Nutta suggested that in the future we could consider larger awards for collaborative projects. The Council discussed the goals of these awards: 1) to encourage research and 2) to provide seed money for potential future external awards. John Arthur asked if we could consider offering funds for dependents to travel with the researcher. Pat Scott said that USFSP faculty would be surveyed regarding improving NIRG and SIRG research grants. Cynthia suggested that we have a meeting in the future to discuss survey items.

The Council reviewed the evaluation rubric from last year. Ellen Hufnagel suggested that item H should be removed in the weighting and included as a comment that is not factored into the score. Whether the project builds partnerships across disciplinary boundaries might be another consideration. Dr. Hufnagel said that these changes should occur for next year since the applicants used the current guidelines to develop their proposals. Adding another scoring item at this point without it having been advertised is not advisable at this point and should be considered for next year. Eric Odgaard asked why we should promote interdisciplinary research. Dr. Hufnagel suggested that we develop a category for other strong features of a proposal, which could include interdisciplinary research, potential for generating additional funding, etc., with which we could assign additional points.

The Council will receive the applications October 18 and will announce the awards November 1.

Dr. Hufnagel suggested setting up an organization on Blackboard for the Research Council where the applications will be available.

The Council suggested that John Arthur remove himself from the review if his spouse submits a proposal. A previous grant recipient from CAS could be approached to step in for Dr. Arthur in the review process.

The Council will meet at 1:00 p.m. on October 25 in COQ 201 to decide on the awards.

The Council reviewed the revisions to the Research Misconduct Policy and will transmit the suggestions to Dr. D'Elia. (The Council's changes will be highlighted in the text with a separate synopsis of the suggested revisions).

Dr. D'Elia stated that there has been concern that the Humanities and Business are underrepresented in the grant submission process. Dr. Odgaard said that the Council could reword the awards to indicate that they support all types of scholarly activity. Dr. Leung offered to go to each college's faculty meeting to discuss the awards.

Dr. D'Elia suggested that the Council consider developing an annual research and scholarship symposium. The Council discussed ideas for the symposium and agreed that a combination of poster sessions by faculty with a keynote speech by an invited scholar would be an appropriate format.

Dr. Leung suggested that the Council explore working with someone in Sponsored Research who could help identify grant funding sources for research in the Humanities or in interdisciplinary areas.

For the next meeting, the Council would like to discuss recouping more of the overhead from DSR in Tampa to USFSP.

The meeting adjourned at 4:00 PM