

Senate Council on Research and Scholarship
Minutes
December 11, 2008
10:30 – 12:30pm
283 Reitz Union

Attendees

Jacob Chung
Henrietta Logan
Scott Nygren
Tom Walsh

Meeting called to order at 10:45am.

Jacob Chung announced that Paul Mueller will be a new member of SCoRS, as a representative of the Research Policy Committee.

The minutes of the November meeting were approved with one addition. Scott Nygren proposed including the sentence “Chuck Frazier agreed to consider forming a faculty advisory committee to IT.” This is significant because all other IT committees consider technical questions, and this would be the first committee to address faculty use of IT.

Jacob Chung reported on his meeting with the VP for Research, Dr. Win Phillips regarding FESC and FISE, as authorized at the last ScoRS meeting. Phillips agreed to talk with Tim Anderson as director of FESC, although he said that UF has no authority over FESC since it is a legislative mandate. Phillips also said that he doesn’t see the FISE as competing with FESC, since FESC has continuiong funding and FISE does not. Phillips then asked to be kept informed of ScoRS concerns. After discussion, ScoRS authorized Jacob Chung to discuss with Win Phillips how ScoRS could support the VP’s efforts to avoid waste and duplicated effort, given the multiple and decentralized funding sources for university-wide research initiatives.

Jacob Chung then reported on the Senate Steering Committee December meeting. UF research funding is down 15-20% (for comparison, Harvard’s is down 30%). African-American applications are down alarmingly. Only one university is below UF in tuition, but 15% tuition increase won’t offset legislative cuts; President Machen is concerned about an estimated 4-6% cut in January followed by another 4-6% at the beginning of July, for a total of 8-12% cut for the new year. He expects to turn to the Athletic Association may as a resource to survive these cuts.

John Byatt, from the Office of Technology Licensing, made a presentation on Intellectual Property issues. UF is one of the best universities in terms of technology transfer. He then discussed the problem of alerting OTL in time for a review of new faculty inventions before publication, to determine whether a patent and licensing might be advisable.

The meeting adjourned at 12:15pm