

Senate Council on Research and Scholarship
Minutes
November 13, 2008
10:30 – 12:30pm
283 Reitz Union

Attendees

Jacob Chung
Ken Boote
Bill Kem
Henry Frierson
Henrietta Logan
Scott Nygren
Tom Walsh

Meeting called to order at 10:35am

The minutes of the October meeting were approved.

Tom Walsh reported on Conflict of Interest policies at the University. He stated the University is doing well in the Conflict of Interest and Compliance policy area, but that there are two problem areas. The largest problem is with Export Control, which law he thinks does not work well. The University has self-reported violations and self-proposed ways to solve. The issues deal with such things as collaborations often in minute ways with researchers in foreign countries on unfavored lists such as Cuba. The second significant problem is that Environmental Health and Safety lacks enough people to survey (IACUC, for example, is surveyed every 6 months). EPA found a violation in the past year. EH & S has been given four additional persons to help.

Jacob Chung reported on the Research Policy Council committee which advises the VP for Research, Dr. Win Phillips. The state, in August, approved an energy consortium grant to 5 SUS universities, to be named FESC, and Dr. Tim Anderson was appointed Director of FESC by the University President as directed by the Legislation funding. He is director for the 5 SUS institutions, with \$50 million funds in total, and \$8.75 million going to each of the 5 institutions for research. There is already a center of excellence focusing on energy, FISE, directed by Dr. Eric Wachsman, which received one time funding of \$4.7 million, which has been spent pre-dominantly on two demonstration projects, ethanol from cellulosic pilot plant, and fuel cell development. A series of white papers (researcher expertise and proposals) were developed under the FISE. At issue, is how to distribute the new \$8.75 million of funds coming from the new state funds, and what role FISE should play in this, or whether Dr. Tim Anderson representing the 5 SUS institutions should also represent the UF side by sending out a new RFP for proposals to UF investigators relative to those funds. Council felt this is an issue for Dr. Win Phillips to resolve, as he appointed both individuals.

Scott Nygren proposed and Bill Kem seconded, a motion authorizing Jacob Chung to talk to Dr. Win Phillips to suggest that he reconcile the overlapping administrative structures, considering that it appears FESC has a state-wide mandate and FISE can represent the UF mandate in this area.

Scott Nygren reported three items from the Senate Steering Committee November meeting. First, the committee felt that the University budget principles were out of order (UF order): 1) order of cuts vertical vs. horizontal, 2) other revenue sources, and 3) faculty input. The committee suggested the order should be: 1) other revenue sources, 2) faculty input, and 3) order of cuts vertical vs. horizontal. The second area discussed was Information Technology and the search for future CIO director. He said there were many IT committees, but the problem was who to ask for help if there was a problem with IT issues. The steering committee asked that there be more faculty advisory input to IT. The third issue discussed was the Provost report. The Provost discussed the need to prepare for a potential 10% budget cut next year and also indicated that search for Dean of College of Engineering would begin.

Council discussed the FEO Task Force, and requested to know the structure or process of appointing members to the FEO Task Force. The absence of someone from College of Engineering was noted.

The FEO guidelines were discussed and commented to be generally good. Suggestion was made that statement of past history of sabbaticals and FEOs should be a part of the application package for both sabbatical and FEOs, to facilitate good decisions. There should be a recommended number of FEOs annually per unit, but this should not be an absolute maximum limit, but rather a guide line.

Bill Kem proposed a faculty survey of handling wastes and compliance issues.

The meeting adjourned at 12:15pm