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Research Council Meeting : 2010 : 03 : 26

Research Council

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USFSP Faculty Research Council Meeting Minutes

March 26, 2010, COQ 201

Present: Alex Brice, Deby Cassill, Deb Henry, Michiko Otsuki, Pat Scott, Todd Shank (Chair), and Charlie Vanover
Regrets: Jim Fellows
Guests: Malcolm Butler, Faculty Senate Liaison
Dr. Norine Noonan, Regional Vice Chancellor, Academic Affairs

Meeting was called to order at 10:05 am by Todd Shank

Old Business

The February minutes were approved.

Todd announced that Malcolm will present the concerns discussed at the last meeting with regards to research guidelines and standards for tenure and promotion.

USFSP Research Month

Pat distributed the advertising flyer that is being sent out to the faculty. She reported that the opening event held on Thursday, March 25 was a great success. Over 300 students and others attended. Pat requested that Council members extend an invitation to their faculty for the Chancellor's multicultural breakfast on Thursday, April 1 at 8 am. We should also encourage our faculty to attend the faculty research exchanges scheduled for April 7 and 21 at noon. She also mentioned that applications to participate in the undergraduate research symposium and the graduate student expo are still being accepted.

Action: Council member should advertise upcoming events to their constituencies and try to attend as many functions and activities as possible.

Undergraduate / Graduate Online Research Journal

Alex distributed a comprehensive plan detailing all aspects of this endeavor. The plan included a list of decisions that need to be made, examples of a proposal, forms and letters that will be part of the application, review and acceptance process, informational web sites, and a budget estimate. Alex led the council through the document, answering questions and some additional elements to consider such as copyright, solicitation of manuscripts, page limits, etc. The idea was presented to Dr. Noonan during a question and answer portion of the meeting who then encouraged the Council to submit a written proposal to her.

Action: Council will meet in April to prepare a formal proposal.

New Business

Dialogues with Dr. Noonan

Dr. Noonan joined the Council for a conversation regarding research issues here at USFSP. The major points are summarized here.

- 1) Although USFSP does not have the research volume or budget to justify a completely separate support system, the USFSP administration is working with the USF System Office of Research Innovation (ORI) to maximize the assistance USFSP faculty receive with regard to IRB, grant proposal preparation, budgeting, and post award issues. Establishing a liaison system is one idea

to improve access to the right person for specific questions and help. She also announced that Anita Thompson (CAS, Fiscal & Business Analyst) would now be available to help with pre-award work and submission as well.

- 2) Norine provided some much-needed clarification on the very complex and variable relationships between funding agencies, indirect costs, and the management of those funds. Right now, for budget reasons, USFSP is recovering 16% of indirect costs, which is being divided equally between the principle investigator and his/her respective college. According to the Memo of Understanding between USF Tampa and USFSP, USFSP recovery would be 30% with a three way split between investigator, college, and Academic Affairs. Funds to Academic Affairs supports all research activities on the institution level including such opportunities as internal awards.
- 3) The question of undergraduate research assistants was raised. Dr. Noonan pointed out that these types of positions are usually paid through college grants and not by an administration. That said, Norine would like to implement a centrally-funded, competitive summer research program for faculty and students if/when budget conditions improve.
- 4) Two Council ideas to advance research at USFSP– an online student research journal (see above) and a writing retreat for faculty – were presented. Dr. Noonan was quite interested and requested that formal proposals be brought to her. There was some further discussion of possible ways to fund these activities.
- 5) There was a brief conversation about the philosophy behind the awarding of funds – equity (by college) versus intellectual merit. Because the internal awards (usually around \$5K) were not given this year, Research Council suggested that applications for much smaller amounts be considered to help defray some of the costs associated with faculty research projects. Council was encouraged to submit a proposal to Faculty Senate.

Next meeting:

Friday, April 23rd at 9 AM, COQ 201.

Meeting was adjourned at 12:10 am.

Respectfully submitted:

Deb Henry
Council Secretary