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Report of the URI Council for Research 2013 - 2014 Academic Year

University of Rhode Island Faculty Senate

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Report of the URI Council for Research

2013-2014 Academic Year

The Council for Research held meetings once a month from September through April and a final meeting will be held on May 7, 2014.

Membership: JF Webb (Chair), Peter August, Geoffrey Bothun, Morgan Breene (undergrad), Bridget Buxton, Kathleen Craig, Kathleen Gorman, Douglas Hales, Angela Slitt, Bruce Corliss, Debra Erickson-Owens, John King, Sarina Rodrigues, Zahir Shaikh, Gerald Sonnenfeld (ex officio), Rebecca Trueman (grad), Linda Welters, Nasser Zawia.

Student members were appointed in October 2013; one seat (Faculty Senate appointment) remained empty after two substitutions.

A major goal this year was to re-visit the charge to the Council for Research and to align practices and procedures with the *University Manual*. These efforts pertained to re-establishing correct membership and voting structure - e.g., Dean of the Graduate School is a full voting member; VP for Research and Economic Development is an *ex-officio* voting member; Division of Research and Economic Development staff attend meetings as needed or requested, and provide important staff support for the CfR (Dr. K. Markin, Ms. M. Schwartz).

The new VP for Research and Economic Development, Dr. Gerry Sonnenfeld, attended the CfR meetings, gave brief VP reports about his activities and new initiatives, and served as a valuable resource for the committee.

The CfR accomplished the following during this academic year:

- 1) **Revisited a few lingering issues** from the 2012-2013 academic year. For instance, CfR concern about use of overhead funds by President Dooley for non-URI research (raised in Spring 2013) was addressed by VP Sonnenfeld in a conversation with President Dooley at the CfR's request. VP Sonnenfeld reported back to the CfR, and the CfR decided that this issue would not be pursued further.
- 2) **A "To Do" list** of tasks, and issues and concern for discussion was generated by the Chair with input from the CfR membership. These items were brought to the attention of new VP Sonnenfeld soon after he arrived on October 1, and he had already addressed several of the same issues. The list was presented to the CfR with the intent of dealing with each of the issues during the academic year. Some of these topics, many of which still need to be discussed, include: Cuts in federal funding and impacts on faculty research, Data storage and Data Backup Resources at URI, Digital Commons and Posting of Theses/Dissertations, Costs of supporting post-docs and enhancing post-doc culture, need for a stable mechanism for receiving and disbursing NSF (and other external) Fellowship funds (brought to the attention of VP Sonnenfeld), requirements for signatures on procurement contracts (which slows research), need for University-wide list of skilled research personnel (to draw upon quickly), University support for ongoing service contracts on equipment.
- 3) **CfR Faculty Grant Competition -**
 - a. **Revision of Proposal Guidelines and Protocol for Proposal Evaluation.** The CfR spent a great deal of time revising the Calls for Proposals in order to correct formatting, enhance submission guidelines, and ensure that the Calls are consistent with the definition of the Grant competitions as described in the *University Manual*, which involved restriction of eligibility to "full time faculty with continuing appointments (tenured, tenure-track faculty, research faculty, research scientists)". The revised Call for Proposals (approved Dec. 2013) were used

- for the Spring 2014 grant competitions. A modified protocol for the review/evaluation of the grant proposals involved reviews of each proposal by two members of the CfR (using a new review form) and submission of written reviews and rankings (1-5, with five the highest). Reviewers did a short (5 minute) presentation/ consideration of each proposal in a NSF-style panel meeting, and proposals were then ranked based on numerical rankings provided by reviewers. Each grant applicant will receive (verbatim) compiled reviewed from both reviewers and additional panel comments, which will provide valuable feedback for future grant submissions. This was a significant improvement over the protocol used in 2013. Additional enhancements to this new process were then identified and will be used in the 2015 competition.
- b. **\$160,000 available for grants** (an increase from last year) - Proposal Development Grants - 19 submitted; two disqualified as per criteria in Call for Proposals. A total of 8 grants (mean scores ≥ 4 ; 47% of qualified proposals) will be funded for \$107,978. Faculty Career Enhancement Grants - 14 submitted; A total of 6 grants (mean scores ≥ 4 ; 43% of qualified proposals) will be funded for \$51,130. (see attached).
- 4) **Excellence Awards** - Teams of three CfR members reviewed the 18 nominations in the different award categories. Awards were made (names available upon request) for Faculty Research and Scholarship (Advanced Career, Early Career - in arts, social science and humanities, and in life sciences, physical sciences and engineering), Graduate Research and Scholarship (in arts, social science and humanities, and in life sciences, physical sciences and engineering), and Undergraduate Research and Scholarship (in arts, social science and humanities, and in life sciences, physical sciences and engineering). No nominations were received for the post-doc award. Some minor changes to the Call for Nominations and criteria for nominations for Excellence Awards will be put in place for 2015.
 - 5) **Center Approvals** -
 - a. A new evaluation sheet was developed for the approval of new Centers based upon criteria for the establishment of new Centers in the *University Manual*. The intent of this new procedure was to provide the Provost's Office with more information than provided by the CfR in the past so that a final informed decision could be made (in response to a request by Laura Beauvais, Provost's Office, in a meeting with CfR Chair, Dr. Webb).
 - b. The CfR evaluated the only Center proposal submitted during this academic year (the Center for Sensors and Instrumentation Research, O. Gregory, Director) using this evaluation tool. After considering the proposal and hearing a short presentation by Dr. Gregory, the CfR made extensive recommendations for the revision of the Center proposal, which need to be incorporated into a revised proposal before the CfR could approve it. To date, the CfR has not received a revised proposal for this Center.
 - c. Several Centers are overdue for renewal (one due in 2012, three due in 2013). The CfR sent a letter to the Faculty Senate Exec. Comm. on Feb. 9, 2014 indicating that "Karen Markin [CfR staff] will continue to keep tabs on which Centers need renewals..., and the CfR Chair will notify the Faculty Senate Exec. Comm. of delinquencies. However, we feel that the Faculty Senate Exec. Comm. should coax PI's to submit the necessary paperwork so that the CfR can then carry out its approval process."
 - 6) **Subcommittee on Overhead Distribution Policy** - Members: Dr. Gerald Sonnenfeld [VPRED, Chair of subcommittee]; Dr. JF Webb [CfR Chair, co-Chair of subcommittee], Dr A. Slitt, Dr. P. August, Dr. J. King, S. Rodrigues (CfR members), C. Katz, M. K. DeMarco, S. Bell (appointees of President, Provost, VPAF, respectively). The subcommittee met and sought out any egregious issues. The Subcommittee stated the following in its report: "The subcommittee voted to recommend that the current distribution scheme remain in place through the 2014 calendar year. The subcommittee decided to remain active throughout the 2013-2014 academic year to do an extensive review of overhead distribution and spending so that it could recommend well-deliberated changes, if necessary, for the 2015 calendar year based on a full-year of data gathered under the new review policy." The

report of the subcommittee was approved by the CfR and was submitted to the Faculty Senate Executive Committee in January 2014, as per Faculty Senate policy.

- 7) **2014 Academic Summit (January 2014)** - two members of the CfR (Drs. Webb, Welters) served on the Academic Summit Planning Committee.
- 8) **Director of Sponsored Research Search Committee (Spring 2014)** - CfR Chair (Dr. Webb) is a member of this search committee, which will conduct on-campus interviews in late April 2014.
- 9) **Intellectual Property Committee** - CfR Chair (Dr. Webb) served as an *ex-officio* member.

Presentations were made at CfR meetings by:

- 1) Ted Myatt (Director of Research Compliance) - on the development of a centralized Lab Animal Cost Center, and on programs to satisfy the requirement for training in Responsible Conduct of Research (RCR).
- 2) Julia Lovett and Andree Rathemacher (Library; at the request of the CfR) - on the URI Open Access Policy and the policy pertaining to the electronic posting of theses and dissertations to URI's Digital Commons (Electronic Thesis and Dissertation Program). The issue of the timing of the posting of student theses and dissertations (the default is immediate posting, with options for up to a 2-year embargo) and the fact that the PI/advisor is not currently involved in the decision (the student's decision) about the timing of the posting was the subject of much discussion. As a result of this presentation, the Council developed a recommendation sent to the Dean of the Graduate School by the CfR Chair (dated December 3, 2013) that the default be changed to a 2-year embargo and that the PI/advisor be required to acknowledge the student's decision at the point when the final thesis/dissertation is submitted to the Graduate School. This change would protect both the student (intellectual property) and the PI whose investment in the student's research needs to be protected, especially when funded by extramural grants, and especially when publication is anticipated. The recommendation was presented to the Graduate Council (as reported by P. August, member of both CfR and Graduate Council) and the CfR has not yet been informed of a decision.

Approved by the Council for Research, April 11, 2014

Council for Research Awards FY15 (for proposals submitted 5/1/14)

PAY ALL IN FY15; after July 1 2014

PI Name	Project	DEPT	COL	REQUESTED AMOUNT	AWARD AMOUNT
PROPOSAL DEVELOPMENT					
Funded					
Samantha A. Meenach	Tumor Penetrating Aerosol Particles for the Treatment of Lung Cancer	Chem Eng	ENG	\$15,000	\$15,000
Yang Shen	A pilot study towards realtime warning of meteorological tsunamis along the U.S. eastern seaboard		GSO	\$15,000	\$15,000
Ying Zhang	Genome-scale Metabolic of the Sustainability and Competitiveness of Sulfurimonas autotrophica	CMB	CELS	\$15,064	\$15,000
Angela Slitt	Does Bisphenol A exposure cause fatty liver disease via DNA methylation changes?	BPS	Pharm	\$15,000	\$14,875
Harold "Bud" Vincent	Hybrid-Diesel Electric Autonomous Coastal Survey Vessel	OCE	ENG	\$14,864	\$14,864
Evan Preisser	How does density affect forest pest interactions:	BIO	CELS	\$13,245	\$13,245
Austin Becker	Building leadership for climate adaptation: A review of approaches and assessment of applicability to the maritime infrastructure sector	MAF	CELS	\$15,000	\$10,111
Steven Q. Irvine	Asexual Proliferation of Invasive Colonial Sea Squirts	Bio Sci	CELS	\$9,883	\$9,883
Not funded					
Darren T. Beck	Effects of Aromatase Inhibition on Testosterone Induced Gene Expression in Adipose Tissue of F344 Rats	KIN	HSS	\$15,000	\$0
Geoffrey Greene	Preliminary Study of Food Insecurity and Eating Rate	NFS	CELS	\$5,281	\$0
Disa Hatfield	The influence of planned physical activity in three-year-olds on spontaneous energy expenditure and caloric intake	KIN	HSS	\$10,540	\$0
Kristin Johnson	Downscaling Governance: Local Capacity in Sub Saharan Countries	Poli Sci	A&S	\$11,679	\$0
Hyunjin Kim	Generations together in Higher Education	HDF	HSS	\$13,384	\$0
Chris Lane	The sea squirt, the reformed parasite and the bacteria: A Biological 'Turducken'	Bio	CELS	\$14,306	\$0
Mark L. Robbins	Developing Measures to Promote Blood Donation in White and Latino Adults	Psy/CPRC	A&S	\$14,910	\$0

D. Cardace	Extreme Life in Rocks: Observations through a Window to Earth's Mantle	GEO	CELS	\$14,952	\$0
Mary Greaney	An exploratory study of the health environments of subsidized housing sites for older adults	KIN	HSS	\$14,992	\$0
Sheng Lu	Global Apparel Supply chain in the 3D Printing Era: Industry Landscape, Economic Impact and Policy Implications	TMD	HSS	\$14,997	\$0
Meng Wei	Build numerical models for earthquake cycles on oceanic transform faults		GSO	\$15,000	\$0
				Total PD	\$107,978.0
CAREER ENHANCEMENT					
Funded					
Nancy E. Karraker	Effects of forest fragmentation on gene flow in turtle populations	NRS	CELS	\$13,600	\$13,600
Katrin Jomaa	The defining features of a "Muslim Democracy" in modern Indonesia	Poli Sci	A&S	\$12,075	\$12,075
Lauren H. Mandel	User strategies to Wayfind in public library facilities	GSLIS	A&S	\$7,402	\$7,402
Kim Hensley Owens	Unboxing education: Perspectives on Tucson's Mexican American studies program	WRT	A&S	\$7,053	\$7,053
Caroline Gottschalk Druschke	Public participation and policy: Commercial fishing in a Changing Climate	WRT	A&S	\$7,000	\$7,000
Christopher Goodrich	Regularity of Minimizers on Riemannian Manifolds	Math	A&S	\$4,000	\$4,000
Not Funded					
Darren T. Beck	Effects of a commercially available limb pneumatic compression device on systemic arterial function	KIN	HSS	\$15,000	\$0
Karen de Bruin	Memorializing the Rhode Island Slave Trade	Lang	A&S	\$15,000	\$0
Marc Hutchison	A longitudinal assessment of the effects of chronic terrorism on individual political tolerance in Israel, 1980-2014	PSC	A&S	\$9,263	\$0
Liam C. Malloy	Behavioral responses to campaign advertising	ECON	A&S	\$14,346	\$0
Annu Palakunnathu Matthew	From immigrant to native: Imaging the new American	Art&Art His	A&S	\$8,213	\$0
Adam David Roth	Pathologizing the Economy: The rhetoric of medical metaphors and the anatomy of financial crises	Comm	A&S	\$13,712	\$0
Karen Stein	Adrienne Rich: Poet of the oppositional imagination	ENG	A&S	\$4,000	\$0
Annemarie Vaccaro	College Students with disabilities developing purpose and choosing a major	Hum Dev	HSS	\$15,000	\$0
				Total FCE	\$51,130
				GRAND TOTAL	159,108.00