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Report of the Research Policy and Facilities Committee: Proposal to Establish a Center for Vector-Borne Disease Research

University of Rhode Island Faculty Senate

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UNIVERSITY OF RHODE ISLAND
Kingston, Rhode Island
FACULTY SENATE
BILL
Adopted by the Faculty Senate

TO: President Robert L. Carothers
FROM: Chairperson of the Faculty Senate

1. The attached BILL, titled Report of the Research Policy and Facilities Committee: Proposal to Establish a Center for Vector-Borne Disease Research, is forwarded for your consideration.
2. The original and two copies for your use are included.
3. This BILL was adopted by vote of the Faculty Senate on March 25, 1993 (date).
4. After considering this bill, will you please indicate your approval or disapproval. Return the original or forward it to the Board of Governors, completing the appropriate endorsement below.
5. In accordance with Section 10, paragraph 4 of the Senate's By-Laws, this bill will become effective April 15, 1993, three weeks after Senate approval, unless: (1) specific dates for implementation are written into the bill; (2) you return it disapproved; (3) you forward it to the Board of Governors for their approval; or (4) the University Faculty petitions for a referendum. If the bill is forwarded to the Board of Governors, it will not become effective until approved by the Board.

March 26, 1993
(date)

Leonard M. Kahn
Leonard M. Kahn
Chairperson of the Faculty Senate

ENDORSEMENT

TO: Chairperson of the Faculty Senate
FROM: President of the University

Returned.

- a. Approved .
- b. Approved subject to final approval by Board of Governors . 4/7/94
- c. Disapproved .

3.31.93
(date)

Robert L. Carothers
President

UNIVERSITY OF RHODE ISLAND
Kingston, Rhode Island

FACULTY SENATE

RESEARCH POLICY AND FACILITIES COMMITTEE (REPOFAC)
PROPOSAL TO ESTABLISH A CENTER FOR VECTOR-BORNE DISEASE RESEARCH

March 12, 1993

On February 1, 1993, the Faculty Senate Research Policy and Facilities Committee reviewed and approved the proposal from the College of Arts and Sciences and the College of Resource Development for the establishment of a Center for Vector-Borne Disease Research in accordance with the provisions of UNIVERSITY MANUAL sections 8.90.20-22.

In accordance with section 8.85.10 of the UNIVERSITY MANUAL, the proposal was forwarded to the Office of the Vice President for Business and Finance with the request that a budgetary impact statement be prepared. In his memorandum dated March 9, 1993, Mr. J. Vernon Wyman, Assistant to the Vice President for Business and Finance, reported the following with regard to resources:

From the perspective of resource requirements, the proposal states that no new unrestricted-funded positions are required. The Center's financial resources are to be developed from external sources, through grants, subcontracts, solicitation of donors, and the consolidation and reinvestment of overhead recoveries from both College and Departmental shares.

Under the proposal, the Center would receive a minimum of 50% of the Departmental half of overhead recoveries associated with grants and contracts pursued through the Center and would negotiate on a need basis for half of the overhead recoveries retained by the College under current policies in force in both the College of Resource Development and the College of Arts and Sciences...

Based upon Mr. Wyman's statement, the Faculty Senate Executive Committee agreed on March 12, 1993 that the proposed Center for Vector-Borne Disease Research does not require review and ranking by the new Program Review Committee because it meets the criteria for exemption set forth in section 8.85.24 of the UNIVERSITY MANUAL:

If programs do not require the allocation of funds for direct costs, or if the program can be entirely supported by reprogramming existing departmental funds, or if the amount of general revenue funds required per year does not exceed the current calendar year salary of an instructor, no review under 8.85.20 shall be required.

2. Department of Marine Affairs

a. Add (New)

MAF 587 Environmental Assessment Meeting and Report II,2
Continuation of MAF 586 which must be taken in the same academic year.
Focus is on the public meeting and completion of written report
prepared in MAF 586 (Workshop 3). Pre: MAF 586. West

b. Change

MAF 586 Environmental Impact Assessment and Analysis -change in
description and credits to read:

MAF 586 Environmental Impact Assessment and Analysis I,2
Centers on an impact assessment of a proposed coastal community
project and includes the development of project alternatives,
associated impacts, preparation of a public hearing and final report.
Relevant methods and procedures are reviewed. (Lec 2) Pre:
Matriculated graduate student or permission of instructor. MAF 586
may not be used for program credit unless MAF 587 is completed in the
same academic year. West

3. Department of Political Science

a. Add (New)

PSC 580 Seminar in International Relations Theory I or II,3
This course will be a critical treatment of major international
relations theories beginning with an analysis of core theoretical
concepts. (Sem) Pre: Honors seniors with permission of instructor or
graduate standing. Genest/Petro

PSC 583 Seminar in American Politics I or II,3
Critical consideration of central issues in American political
institutions, behavior and policymaking. (Sem) Pre: Honors seniors
with permission of instructor or graduate standing. Zucker/Moakley

b. Change in Specializations section of Graduate
Bulletin:

Delete separate specialization section in Graduate Bulletin. Under
"Master of Arts", add before "Admission Requirements" the following:

Specializations: International relations, comparative politics,
American politics and public policy.

c. Change in Program Requirements

Under "Program Requirements" delete "M.A. has a thesis and nonthesis
option" and add in its place "A minimum of 30 credits including PSC
553, 580, and 583 for both thesis and nonthesis options;"

The proposal for the Center for Vector-Borne Disease Research appears on the following pages and is presented in the format required by the Board of Governors for Higher Education.

The Research Policy and Facilities Committee recommends its approval by the Faculty Senate.

Members of the Research Policy and Facilities Committee:

Robert Gutchen, HIS, Chairperson
Brian Heikes, OCG
Colleen Kelly, CSC
Gene Lai, FIN
Chong Lee, FSN
Stanley Pickart, PHY

PROPOSAL TO ESTABLISH A CENTER FOR VECTOR-BORNE DISEASE RESEARCH

A. Program Information

1. *Name of Institution*
The University of Rhode Island
2. *Departments and Colleges Involved*
The Colleges of Resource Development and Arts & Sciences
The Departments of Plant Sciences, Natural Resources, Zoology, and Microbiology
3. *Title of the Program*
Center for Vector-Borne Disease Research
4. *Intended Date of Organizational Change*
As soon as possible
5. *Intended Location of Organizational Unit*
Individual participants existing facilities.
Center's mail, letterhead, office of director, etc. to be housed in CRD.
6. *Institutional Review and Approval Process*
 - A. Departments of Plant Sciences, Natural Resources, Zoology, Microbiology
 - B. Colleges of Resource Development and Arts & Sciences
 - C. Faculty Senate
 - D. President of the University
7. *Summary of the Proposed Organizational Change*

Recognizing the important impact of vector-borne diseases on society and the necessity to promote interdisciplinary research to generate solutions, the proposed center for research will establish a more appropriate designation and structure for attracting both resources and public attention. The Center's mission is to promote studies that focus on the biology, ecology and control of vector-borne diseases. The objectives in creating the Center include: (1) bestowing a more appropriate designation on a large and very active interdisciplinary group of faculty; (2) encouraging free exchange of ideas and effort among the varied faculty disciplines representing the field of research; and (3) enhancing opportunities for attracting and developing research funding and other resources.

8. *Signature of the President*

9. *Persons to be Contacted During the Review*

Thomas N. Mather, Ph.D.
792-5616

David A. Nelson, Ph.D.
792-5902

B. Rationale

Vector-borne disease, including infections transmitted by ticks, mosquitoes and other biting arthropods, continue to account for significant threats to public health both nationally and worldwide despite development of synthetic insecticides and new molecular advances in medicine. Recognizing the important impact of vector-borne diseases on society, more than 12 of the University faculty representing two colleges are actively engaged in research directly related to aspects of vectors and human disease. However, this group lacks a distinguishing identity, which is needed to unify and draw attention to their endeavors. In order to better promote vector-borne disease research at the University, we propose the creation of a University-wide center for research to focus both attention and resources on efforts to combat vector-borne diseases, especially those, like Lyme disease, mosquito-borne encephalitis and dog heartworm, that either afflict or affect nearly every resident in Rhode Island. Establishment of the *Center for Vector-Borne Disease Research* would provide such an appropriate designation.

The mission of this new University center for research is simple: To promote studies that focus on the biology, ecology and control of vector-borne diseases. The goal in creating the so designated *Center for Vector-Borne Disease Research* is principally threefold: (1) to bestow a more appropriate designation on a large and very active interdisciplinary group of faculty while keeping within the existing University structure; (2) to create an atmosphere that encourages free exchange of ideas and effort among the varied disciplines represented by interested faculty; and (3) to enhance opportunities for attracting and developing research funding and other resources.

The direct benefits to be gained by the University community in creating this center designation include:

- creates a "marketable" research focus necessary for developing and soliciting research funds.
- identifies what can become a state, national and worldwide resource in this specific field of study.
- provides a University-wide identity for faculty and research programs involved in vector-borne disease research under a variety of less-than-appropriate departmental designations (i.e. Plant Sciences, Microbiology, Zoology).
- creates an attractive program of research for students, post-doctoral fellows and visiting scientists from the US and abroad.
- identifies a major research interest of the University
- attracts public attention to the University and its expertise in the field of vector-borne diseases, especially Lyme disease.

C. Institutional Role

The proposed Center would offer students and faculty a unique opportunity to participate in a dynamic, interdisciplinary program that embodies the principal functions of a State-supported University--to educate, conduct research and to serve the public. The Center would function to channel the existing diverse research resources and public service efforts directed towards vector-borne disease research into one larger cohesive unit, avoiding much duplication of effort and possibly expense. We also expect to identify teaching, research and service needs not currently being met in a satisfactory manner at the

University. All developmental efforts of the Center will be directed towards satisfying programmatic gaps and weaknesses.

D. Interinstitutional Considerations

No interinstitutional problems are anticipated. The Center for Vector-Borne Disease Research would be unique within the region in that it draws together URI faculty from several research subspecialties related to aspects of vector-borne diseases. Faculty members have extensive collaborative ties to other institutions of higher education both within the US and in several foreign countries, including China, Sweden, France and Belgium. We anticipate that creation of the center will draw increased interest from programs both within and outside of the US, expanding URI's pool of students interested in graduate study and research. The prospects for exchange with foreign institutions is especially exciting, the likelihood of which will greatly enrich the graduate and research programs of the University.

Due to the nature of the Center's focus, we anticipate development of close research relationships with the RI Department of Health and the RI Department of Environmental Management. Appropriate personnel from those agencies could be extended adjunct appointments with the Center or any of the participating departments.

E. Resources

No new state-funded positions or resources are required by the proposed Center. The center plans to develop its financial resources from external sources. Grant writing and subcontracting will be a high priority of Center-affiliated faculty. Solicitation of donor monies will also be encouraged. All funds collected (see below) will be directed into a single account with locally maintained subaccounts established to receive each faculty member's contribution. Disbursement schedules will be on a *pro rata* basis with a minimum of 10% going to the common good of the Center's activities (letterhead, seminars, etc.). The Director(s) will be charged with administering this fund for the good of the Center and all involved.

Indirect costs (IDC) from external research grants awarded to Center participants will be made available to the Center from both the Dean's and Departmental IDC portion in the following proportions:

Dean's : negotiated based on need
Department : minimum of 50% of departmental total

F. Evaluation

The organization will function as an externally funded research center. The measure of success will be both scholarly and financial. The Center's success will be reflected in the ability of participating faculty to obtain extramural support for their research. Scholarly advances will be judged by (1) the number and quality of publications in refereed journals, books, book chapters and papers presented; (2) the attraction of visiting scientists and post-doctoral fellows to Center-affiliated research programs; and (3) the production of graduate student theses, dissertations and collaborative publications. The Center Director(s) will evaluate annually, in qualitative terms, the quality and consistency with the mission of all publications from and programs located within the Center.