



MEETING DATE: Thursday, October 3, 2024, 12:45-2:30pm via Zoom

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APPROVED MINUTES

In attendance: Benjamin Smith, Jaesung An, Surendra Sarnikar, Alex Sumarsano, Michael Hall, Michelle Gravier, Linda Dobb, Chandra Khan, Maria Livaudais, Ian Pollock, Ram Kandasamy

1. Elect Secretary
2. Approval of the agenda - Benjamin Smith and Ian Pollock
3. Approval of [9/19/24](#) minutes - Benjamin Smith Michael Hall
4. [Land Acknowledgement](#)
5. **Reports**
 - a. Report of the Chair
 - i. STEM Net group met. No decision currently made.
 - ii. RSG grants to be divided into \$110,000 total for RSG grants and \$30,000 total for Mini-Grants. ExComm discussed this in the Senate and it looks like they will go forward with the mini grants as an information item. Our Committee will review and administer the process.
 - iii. Chandra reported that there was initially some confusion about the travel grants. IDC receives funds in the amount of \$70,000 from the Chancellor's Office. IDC will fund professional travel along with other programs. IDC paperwork is done and has been distributed to Colleges and is done for the year. She also mentioned that the library hasn't been receiving IDC for the past few years.
 - iv. The writing accountability call was announced. Money is limited due to IDC funding so many programs (including OSCAR scholarships). Interdisciplinary call will be released next week in the Academic Affairs newsletter. CRSA will administer the open call applications. There will be only a week for review but only expecting 2 to 3 applications. OSCAR scholarships are lower because the funds are being stretched between fellows, travel, etc. Benjamin asked for specifics as to what the IDC funds and followed up by asking if there are faculty representatives on the IDC selection committee. Chandra acknowledged that the committee includes a Dean representative, centers and institute representative, faculty representative, and staff representative and that it is a pilot program and can be modified.



- b. Report of the Presidential Appointee (STEM-NET call 2) - Chandra shared that the first round of STEMnet was under review and highly competitive. STEMnet interdisciplinary grant opportunity allows one application per campus. The internal competition will select the top proposal to submit, with a potential \$25,000 award for faculty release time to develop an external grant proposal within a three-week timeline. The call for proposals will be released next week. The committee discussed charter renewals going through the Senate Executive Committee and Senate; the renewal from the Center for Community Engagement, is almost ready to go; Mary D'Alleva has provided the information the Committee requested about the director selection process.
- c. Report from IACUC (Ram) - Ram provided an update on the IACUC subcommittee, which is no longer a subcommittee of CR, and reported that they had met to approve their own policies and procedures. The team agreed to update the policies related to the Institutional Review Board (IRB) and the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC), acknowledging that these committees were no longer subcommittees of the Committee on Research (CR)
- d. Chair's report: Linda stated that she had submitted some comments to the Senate about reorganization, with one concern being that with the reassignment of departments there could be potential impact on the work of the IRB committee. The Charter renewal from the Center for Community Engagement, is almost ready to go to ExComm; Mary D'Alleva has provided the additional information the Committee requested about the director selection process.

6. Business

- a. Reviewing our documents for upgrade - ongoing
- b. Impact of Reorganization on Research: update on the latest in this area - Reorganization in the Senate - Jaesung An spoke about how the Senate has formed town halls to open the discussions to students and the greater community. Some faculty that were not able to attend town hall were upset that it sounded as if it was coming from the entire college. Jaesung clarified that the resolution was not a representation of the entire college, but rather the voice of the majority of faculty members who attended the town hall meetings. The Senate passed the resolution on 10/2. Linda Dobb expressed concerns about the potential impact of the reorganization on research, particularly in relation to the largest grant, Promise Neighborhoods. She suggested that the grant could continue to operate independently if needed. Michelle raised a concern about the potential impact on interdisciplinary collaboration for health-related grants, as the reorganization might affect the competitiveness of the institution. Michelle also relayed that President Sandeen implied that the reorganization is a way to allow for more Health specific grants. Ian suggested that the reorganization could be an opportunity to



rethink the model of organizing colleges around departments, and instead focus on research topics.

Linda acknowledged these points, noting that while the reorganization might not significantly impact collaborative grant writing, it could potentially lead to a more forward-thinking approach to research organization.

- c. RSGs this year; mini-grants for travel - Language changed to include all faculty.
- d. For next time: Galindo Creek Charter (if ready)

7. Discussion

- a. Benjamin Smith asked about the IDC funds. If there is a limited amount of money, is everyone best served by mini grants or should funding be used to fund OSCAR? Linda Dobb replied that it is a pilot program and that we are trying the mini grants in part to help morale. The grants are a response to this need. Chandra replied that IDC money is not being taken from OSCAR to make mini-grants. Because the funds are widely distributed, it affects the “larger eco-system”. PI’s will be available to apply to all grant opportunities. Chandra explained that the IDC return, an annual fund for each college, can be spent at their discretion and can be used for various programs or travel grants related to RSCA. The amount of money in these accounts varies among colleges. Linda shared that her college plans to distribute a modest amount of money to faculty members for conference registrations and other related expenses. The meeting also discussed the idea of a mini-grant project, with concerns raised about potential trade-offs, particularly in funding student risk activities. Linda expressed support for the mini-grant project, emphasizing the need to ensure the money is being spent appropriately. Chandra clarified that the IDC money was being used for various purposes, including faculty leadership and scholarships for students.

- b. RE: RSCA and Mini-Grants Chandra added that the committee can report as they like and reported as two separate programs. Linda will revise the letter to the Senate. Benjamin agrees that they should be reviewed as two separate calls.



- c. Chandra emphasized the need for clear reporting and separation of the two programs. Linda agreed to rewrite her memo to reflect this separation.
- d. Linda, Michelle, and Surendra discussed funding eligibility, deciding to include all faculty and require documentation for travel expenses. Linda agreed to revise the criteria. Michelle and Linda broadened the scope of 'publication costs' to 'creative work'. Concerns were raised about evaluating diverse faculty proposals for the grant program. The team planned to announce Mini grant winners after the main grants to avoid conflicts. Linda aimed to expedite releasing the document with changes.
- e. The team discussed limitations of their program regarding hardware purchases, suggesting changes to eligibility criteria and the need for more specific grant usage guidelines. Linda proposed submitting two memos to the Senate, with tweaks to the Mini Grant application and removing a paragraph from the grant call. Concerns were raised about the lack of a rubric for the main grant. Linda planned minor application changes for review, including the Rubric from last year's process for the main RSCA grants. With assistance from Mark Robinson, the updated call, with everyone's comments will be put in the ExComm folder.

8. Adjournment