

Report to the Faculty Senate from the Council for Research April 19, 2018
Presented by Dr. Angela Slitt, Chair, CFR

“The Council for Research shall promote and facilitate research activities at the University, [ensure] that research and other creative and scholarly activities are seen as being of equal importance with the instructional function of the University and [see] that the close relationship between the two is recognized. The Council shall attempt to achieve this objective by serving as the representative voice of the university research community and by seeking aggressively to improve in all ways possible the environment for research at URI.” -- University Manual, Appendix C.

I. Meetings and Membership: During the 2017-2018 academic year, the CFR met monthly.

II. Changes in Procedures:

- Continued loss of staffing by Research Office (K. Markin)
- Revised documents:
 - Calls for Proposal Development and Faculty Career Enhancement Grants
 - Criteria and format for Nominations for 2016-2017 Research Excellence Awards.
- We still continue to have a CFR member (Dr. Jason Dwyer, CHM) attend the Intellectual Property Committee meetings as the Chair's designee (*ex officio* on the committee).
- The CFR endorsed a policy change by the Office of Sponsored Projects regarding grants submissions deadlines requiring grants be submitted 3 days before the deadline.

III. Additional Meetings concerning Research Mission:

- This was a unique and demanding year from the CFR because of Dr. Sonnenfeld's retirement and the desire of interim VPR DeHayes to understand the research needs and climate of the university. Much of the CFR's discussions were spent identifying and prioritizing the research needs of the URI faculty.
- In May of 2017 upon hearing that Dr. Sonnenfeld would be retiring, Dr. Slitt reached out to President Dooley's office to offer CFR members as potential search committee members for the VPR member search. President Dooley invited Dr. Slitt to serve on the search committee.
- In September members of the CFR attended the open forums for the VPR candidates and provided feedback to Dr. Slitt to bring to the search committee.
- Dr. Slitt met with Provost DeHayes several times to exchange ideas and understand how the CFR could assist him in prioritizing the research needs of the faculty.
- Dr. Slitt also served on several other committees formed by interim VPR DeHayes at his request – the research leadership team and the grants task force.

IV. Discussions:

- Our October meeting was spent recapping our discussions from 2016-17, when the CFR had started to identify roadblocks and hindrances to performing research at URI. The CFR generated a list of research-related priorities and ideas that Dr. Slitt shared with interim VPR DeHayes. Dr. Slitt then met with him before the November

meeting to discuss.

- Interim VPR DeHayes attended the CFR meetings as an ex-officio member to inform the group about the status of the VPR search and the Research Office. During this time, interim VPR DeHayes used the CFR as a sounding board to exchange initiatives and hear our ideas. Members of the CFR were receptive to his presence and the consensus was that we were willing to put off other tasks to be able to talk about bigger research issues that have been concerns for URI faculty.
- Winifred Nwangwu, Director, Office of Sponsored Projects, met with the CFR on 2/21 to discuss with CFR the grants submission process and how to improve. The consensus was that the grants submission is only part of the issue and a system is needed to handle pre- and post-award grants management. The CFR was in favor of her suggestion to move to other software that can handle both.
- The CFR met with Dr. Snyder on 2/21 to hear his assessment of URI's overall research program and for him to hear our concerns.

V. Approved NEW Centers and Center Renewals

The CFR is recommending to Provost DeHayes that the National Institute For Undersea Vehicle Technology be given temporary authorization in accordance with section 8.90.21 pending a final center application being submitted to the CFR before the May 16, 2018 meeting.

VI. Subcommittee on Overhead Distribution

The Subcommittee on Distribution of Overhead Funds will meet on 5/3 and 5/18 to review the overhead expenditures. There have been multiple meetings of this subcommittee scheduled and they were delayed because the change in controller staff led to a significant delay in the generation of the reports and information needed for the committee to review. Then, with Dr. Snyder joining URI, it made more sense for the committee to meet with him present to see the expenditures and distributions. Members are:

Chair: Angela Slitt, CFR Chairperson

Designee of Provost DeHayes: Linda Barrett

Designee of President Dooley: Matthew Bodah

Designee of Vice President, Division of Administration and Finance: Patricia Casey

Council for Research Members: Meredith Silvia, Furong Xu, Carlos Garcia-Quijano, Bryan Blissmer

Ex Officio: Peter Snyder, Vice President for Research and Economic Development

The Subcommittee will review and discuss current distribution. This report will be submitted to the Faculty Senate and the Administration as per the *University Manual* on before May 31, 2018.

VII. Evaluated CFR Faculty Research Grants - A total of 31 Proposal Development (PD) and 9 Faculty Career Enhancement (FCE) proposals were submitted. They were evaluated via written individual reviews (2 per proposal) followed by a NIH proposal review meeting. The CFR met on 4/18/18 and has tentatively recommended a slate of 5 PD and 4 FCE proposals for funding with a cap of **\$117,000** total budget provided by the VPRED. Awardees have not been notified. The CFR will send the faculty senate an amended final report that includes the names and the amounts of each award.

VIII. Evaluation of 2017-2018 Research Excellence Awards:

CFR reviewed the call for nominations for the Research Excellence Awards, and made changes where deemed appropriate, including the addition of "Research Staff" to the Post-Doc Award. The CFR evaluated 22 nominations for Research Excellence Awards. The CFR will meet on 4/18/18 to approve the slate of seven awards, to be made at the May 15, 2016 Excellence Recognition Ceremony.

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- Undergraduate Research & Scholarship Excellence Award in:
Life Sciences, Physical Sciences, and Engineering
Social Sciences, Arts, and Humanities
 - Graduate Research & Scholarship Excellence Award in:
Life Sciences, Physical Sciences, and Engineering
Social Sciences, Arts, and Humanities
 - Postdoctoral Fellow and Research Staff Research & Scholarship Excellence Award in:
Life Sciences, Physical Sciences, and Engineering
Social Sciences, Arts, and Humanities - *no nominations*
 - Early Career Faculty Research & Scholarship Excellence Award in:
Life Sciences, Physical Sciences, and Engineering
Social Sciences, Arts, and Humanities
 - Advanced Career Faculty Research & Scholarship Excellence Award in:
Social Sciences, Arts, and Humanities
Life Sciences, Physical Sciences, and Engineering
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IX. Upcoming work at May 16th CFR meeting:

The CFR will go review the list of centers that have been granted temporary and full status that will expiring in the upcoming academic year. We will notify center directors so that they can prepare center applications for the fall 2018 academic year. The hope is to ensure this information is passed along to the new faculty senators whom will be replacing the CFR members so that centers can be reviewed. This is an area that needs attention from the Committee for Research and Creative Activities for the Fall 2018 semester.

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Angela L. Slitt

Chair, Council for Research