

Report to the Faculty Senate from the Council for Research April 21, 2016

Presented by Dr. Jacqueline F Webb, 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 2015-2016 academic year, the CFR met monthly, with one additional meeting on April 1. Two seats remained unfilled for the year (VPRED appointee, Graduate Student - GSA appointee) and one seat was unfilled in most of Spring 2016 due to a maternity leave,

II. New Resources and Changes in Procedures:

- Loss of staffing by Research Office (K. Markin)
 - CFR Archive: Establishment of SAKAI site
- Revised documents:
 - Calls for Proposal Development and Faculty Career Enhancement Grants
 - Criteria and format for Nominations for 2015-2016 Research Excellence Awards.
 - New Center and Center Renewal forms - ongoing
- A CFR member (Dr. Jason Dwyer, CHM) has been attending the Intellectual Property Committee meetings as the Chair’s designee (*ex officio* on the committee).

III. Additional Meetings concerning Research Mission:

- Chair met with VP Sonnenfeld and other University administrators several times regarding getting NSF Graduate Research Fellows and other external fellowship recipients paid in an appropriate manner. URI currently has 6 NSF Graduate Research Fellows (each receives \$132,000 in stipend and tuition over 3 years), with the hopes of increasing this number. A new procedure is now in place.
- Chair met with the IT Consulting Firm retained by the University to provide feedback on campus IT issues as they relate to the research mission.
- Chair was invited to and attended a meeting with the Director of NSF (Dr. France A. Córdoba) hosted by Senator Jack Reed (April 8, at CCE) to which a limited number of URI, Brown and RISD faculty/administrators were invited; commercialization of research was discussed.

IV. Discussions:

- M. Katz (Associate Vice President, Intellectual Property Management and Economic Development) spoke to CFR about his new role.
- Research-related points in the DRAFT Academic Plan (2016-2021).
- Changes regarding thesis and dissertation copyright ownership - The council voted to forward the proposed change with its approval to the Graduate Council.
- Drones and URI Policy, with respect to the University’s application for FAA permit

V. Approved NEW Centers and Center Renewals (since last report to FacSen in Nov. '14)

1. Center for Integrated Drug Discovery - Nov. 2014 - NEW

2. Institute for Integrative Health and Innovation - March 2016 - NEW
3. Feinstein Child Development Center - Nov. 2014 - RENEWAL
4. Coastal Resources Center (CRC) - Feb. 2015 - RENEWAL
5. Metcalf Institute for Marine & Environmental Reporting - RENEWAL
6. URI Transportation Center – CFR requested revised proposal, but never received.

Several Center Renewals are overdue.

VIII. Subcommittee on Overhead Distribution - The Subcommittee on Distribution of Overhead Funds met three times in Fall 2015. Members were: P. August [CFR], S. Bell [VPA & F appointee], G. Bothun [CFR], C. Garcia-Quijano [CFR], C. Katz [Provost's appointee], D. Erickson-Owens [CFR], unfilled seat [President's appointee], J. Webb, Vice-Chair [Chair, Council for Research], G. Sonnenfeld, Chair [VPRED]. The report included two statements: 1) The committee systematically reviewed overhead expenses within the University using information provided by the Administration and concluded that there were no material issues with regard to the expenditure of overhead dollars in FY 2015 by units within the University that provided the requested data. 2) The Subcommittee was shown a revised scheme for the distribution of incentive funds provided by the higher Administration which, if approved and announced by the President, would go into effect for FY 2017. The Subcommittee reviewed and discussed this new distribution and did not recommend any changes. However, the Subcommittee stated that it would review this once again, after the new distribution for FY 2017 has been in effect for one year. This report was submitted to the Faculty Senate and the Administration as per the *University Manual* on Jan. 27, 2016.

VI. Evaluated CFR Faculty Research Grants - A total of 14 Proposal Development (PD) and 16 Faculty Career Enhancement (FCE) proposals were evaluated via written individual reviews (2 per proposal) followed by a National Science Foundation-style proposal review meeting. The CFR approved a slate of 5 PD and 5 FCE proposals for funding with a non-negotiable cap of **\$110,000** total budget provided by the VPRED.

Proposal Development (\$64,540)

1. **Buxton, Bridget** (History, A&S) Deep Sea to Oculus 3D: Underwater Digital Site Visualization (\$10,000)
2. **Dewsbury, Bryan** (Biosci, CELS) The Role of Implicit Bias on Academic Performance and Behavior in a Diverse Elementary School (\$14,200)
3. **Kolbe, Jason** (Biosci, CELS) - Bright Lights, Big City: Physiological Effects and Ecological Costs of Artificial Light at Night in Anolis Lizards (\$13,320)
4. **Seeram, Navindra** (BPS, PHCY) Beneficial Effects of Maple Syrup Phytochemicals Against Inflammation (\$13,710)
5. **Zheng, Yi** (MCISE, COE) Design and Fabrication of Metamaterials-based Nanosensor for Ocean Monitoring (\$13,310)

Faculty Career Enhancement (\$45,460)

1. **Eron, Sarah** (English, A&S) Accounting for Crusoe's Survival: Thinking and the Matter of Time (\$7,400)
2. **Hughes, Donna** (GWS/SOC, A&S) Publication of International Open Access Peer-reviewed Journal (\$11,730)
3. **Jervis, Kathryn/Ni, John** (Accounting, Business) Legislative Changes Under the Affordable Care Act and Its Effects on the Cost and Quality of Health Care (\$14,450)
4. **Sterne, Evelyn** (HIS, A&S) The House of David: A Tale of Faith and Folly in Twentieth-Century America (\$7,900)

5. **Williams, Travis** (English, A&S) *Much Ado About Nothing: Critical, Stage, and Film History Since 1988* (\$3,980)
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VII. Evaluation of 2015-2016 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 17 nominations for Research Excellence Awards and unanimously approved a slate of seven awards, to be made at the May 17, 2016 Excellence Recognition Ceremony.

1. Undergraduate Research & Scholarship Excellence Award in:
 - a. Life Sciences, Physical Sciences, and Engineering
 - b. Social Sciences, Arts, and Humanities - *no award made*
 2. Graduate Research & Scholarship Excellence Award in:
 - a. Life Sciences, Physical Sciences, and Engineering
 - b. Social Sciences, Arts, and Humanities
 3. Postdoctoral Fellow and Research Staff Research & Scholarship Excellence Award in:
 - a. Life Sciences, Physical Sciences, and Engineering - *no nominations*
 - b. Social Sciences, Arts, and Humanities - *no nominations*
 4. Early Career Faculty Research & Scholarship Excellence Award in:
 - a. Life Sciences, Physical Sciences, and Engineering
 - b. Social Sciences, Arts, and Humanities
 5. Advanced Career Faculty Research & Scholarship Excellence Award in:
 - a. Social Sciences, Arts, and Humanities
 - b. Life Sciences, Physical Sciences, and Engineering
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IX. Upcoming work at May 6th CFR meeting:

- Will discuss new version of POLICY FOR THE ADMINISTRATION OF GRANTS, CONTRACTS AND GIFTS, which was written by VPRED/Research Office and already vetted by the URI Foundation and the URI Research Foundation.
- Will consider several “housekeeping” changes in the *University Manual* with respect to CFR-related policies (e.g., internal consistency, new Chair elect, new Chair designee for IP committee) and make adjustments in the calls for the CFR grants for next year’s competition.
- Elect CFR Chair for 2016-2017.

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Jacqueline F. Webb
Chair, Council for Research