



## *Research Council*

### Minutes

Date: Oct. 4, 2016    Start time: 11:30p.m.    Adjournment Time: 12:30p.m.    Location: 150 Sugar Hall

CHAIR	Kevin Baer
SECRETARY	Elizabeth Stammerjohan
ATTENDEES	Dr. Kevin Baer, Dr. Joydeep Bhattacharjee, Dr. Khalid El Sayed, Dr. David Irwin, Ms. Megan Lowe, Dr. Eric Pani, Dr. Adam Pate, Dr. Elizabeth Stammerjohan, Dr. Jana Sutton, Dr. Paul Wiedemeier
ABSENT (EXCUSED)	Dr. Katherine Boswell, Dr. Sean Chenoweth, Dr. Sami Nazzal, Dr. Richard Thurkill, Dr. Neil White

### Agenda

GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS	<p>Minutes approved without corrections</p> <p>Dr. Baer announced that candidates for the Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs and Director of the Research Corporation of Louisiana would be interviewed on October 11<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> from 10:45 – 12:20. The applications are on Moodle.</p>
DISCUSSION TOPICS	<p>The research council had requested this meeting with Dr. Pani to see what our role is assisting the new Director of Research Corporation of Louisiana should be.</p> <p>Dr. Pani began by explaining that the funding formula at the state is based on the previous formula, program costs, and performance which includes a heavy emphasis on federal research dollars. We have been designated a National Research University, and to keep that designation we need to grow research production (particularly in terms of federally funded research). The University strategic plan will be updated to reflect that recognition. We will need 3 new doctoral programs in areas where we don't currently have them. Dr. El Sayed suggested that a combination PharmD/PhD might be a good option and Dr. Pani expressed interest. Those present generally agreed that growing research productivity at ULM is a goal they want to help with. Dr. Irwin asked how soon the strategic plan would be updated, and Dr. Pani replied that a draft would be available in about a month, and finalized by end of semester.</p> <p>Dr Baer asked what is the goal of the director for this year.</p> <p>Dr. Bhattacharjee was asked to leave due to being a candidate for the position. Pani explained that the goal is to begin rebuilding the research structure and stop a decline in grand funding. He mentioned getting support staff to help, including a grant writer. He believes the director's strategy should be to get to know the faculty and what they work on, and go out and find grants for them, versus a shotgun approach of trying to do everything. He also believes we need to put in place help with intellectual property. (There is currently a local patent attorney who is believed to be a good resource for the University.) Dr. Pani said the long term goal was for the AVPAA and director to be two different positions.</p> <p>Dr. Stammerjohan asked what Dr. Pani thought the research council might do to help the director. Dr. Pani said we should be ambassadors for more research. Dr. Pani expressed interest in the strategic planning the research council has already done, and suggested that the logical next steps would also be a helpful starting point for the new director.</p>

In response to a question about doctoral programs, Dr. Pani explained they would probably grow out of areas with a large undergraduate base (to support the costs) and a master's program. He stated that developing doctoral programs was probably a five year process.

Ms. Lowe mentioned that it would be important that the people involved with developing doctoral programs make time and funds available to help the library develop the appropriate resources to support the doctoral programs.

Dr. Pani mentioned reducing teaching loads to support research productivity. Dr. El Sayed pointed out that teaching graduate students outside the classroom was as time consuming as teaching organized classes, and perhaps should be counted in some way as comparable to organized classes when it comes to calculating teaching loads.

The concern was expressed that the skills needed for the two halves of the job are very different, and how did Dr. Pani plan to balance that concern in the hiring process? Dr. Baer suggested that is a good question for the candidates. Dr. Pani expressed concern about how the candidate would compliment his strengths and weaknesses for a better whole. He said he would weight the skills needed for the research side more.

Dr. El Sayed asked if the research director should have a proven record of funded research? Dr. Pani said he felt that it was more important that the director needed to bring a more university-wide perspective to the job. He felt that to start to grow this was going to require a lot of cross disciplinary collaboration. Dr. Irwin asked about a record of inter-institutional collaboration experience. Dr. Pani agreed yes, even if not right now, and mentioned that even if other institutions might not be excited about collaborating, individuals at those institutions might be.

Dr. Sutton asked if the director could look to the Board of the Research Corp for help and it was concluded that was a place to start.

Dr. Pani mentioned that indirect costs might start being returned to PIs.

CONCLUSIONS	The research council should attend the interviews and generate a list of pro and cons on each candidate.		
ACTION ITEMS		PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
Dr. Baer should send Dr. Pani our previously completed strategic planning documents as a starting place for the new director of research corporation.			

Approved by committee/council chair  Yes on 01/30/2017