

RESEARCH COUNCIL MINUTES
LIB 640
February 28, 2008
2:00 p.m.

Present: Dr. Girish Shah (Chair), Dr. Harihara Mehendale, Dr. Joe McGahan, Dr. Ann Findley, Dr. Tammy Parker, Dr. Lisa Colvin (ex officio), Mr. Don Smith (ex officio), Ivona Jukic (ex officio)

Unable to attend: Dr. James Bulot, Dr. Linda Bryan, Dr. Kenneth Clow, Dr. Stephen Fox, Dr. Florencetta Gibson, Dr. Jean Low, Dr. Harold Williamson

I. Representation of ULM at state-level research committees

The meeting was opened by noting that ULM is not represented on any of the state-wide research committees. Members were aware of EPSCoR and R&D committees, but were uninformed of other existing committees in the State. The Council, therefore, requested the following:

- A. identify State-wide committees;
- B. examine qualifications for memberships;
- C. identify appointing procedures and mechanisms; and
- D. appoint a ULM representative to each group.

These points were confirmed by members' experiences. Members found out that in the past other universities did not know what went on at ULM. Moreover, members of the Louisiana research community were surprised to discover that any kind of research went on at ULM, such as biomedical research. It was noted that when speaking of research, there is a tendency to think of biomedical only. We must take an all-disciplines approach.

We will soon have a new Commissioner of Higher Education appointed since Dr. Savoie is leaving for ULL. It is possible that the new Commissioner will decide to reconfigure existing committees, and therefore we might need to wait before requesting presence on any committees. The Council will seek the upper administration's input and assistance in this matter.

II. Difficulties faced by ULM investigators in conducting research-what we can do to improve it in short term, medium term and long term.

Discussion was open by stating that there has been no focus on research in previous years. Members agreed that the Council should be the one to assume responsibility of creating focus, setting direction and increasing the visibility of ULM's research community. To achieve these goals, several possibilities were discussed:

A. Transformation of the Graduate Studies and Research will ensure effectiveness of the Office of Sponsored Programs and Research. In the long term, the community will become reliant on the services and information this office will be able to provide given staffing numbers increase. This office will be able to take on bigger challenges in administrative aspects of research and sponsored programs.

B. Identify faculty receiving grant moneys; published faculty, etc. This information can be prominent on www.ulm.edu front page by creating "RESEARCH" tab. From there, all research pertinent information will be accessed, such as OSPR, "scholar of the month," Research Council, Research Symposium, ongoing projects, community involvement, etc. Also, GSR volunteered in creating some form of faculty's research interests and activities database.

C. Networking - create a robust, more informative web page. GSR is already transforming its website. But, to achieve long-lasting goals, departments should fully utilize and offer more informative websites. These websites will be the primary sources of information for junior and other investigators looking for similar research interests, mentors, etc. Database, or links, if approved, would provide the most general information and a direct link to each interested individual's own professionally created link.

D. Increase prominence of the Research Symposium and other programs that are very active in supporting student research.

E. Designate the Research Council as an umbrella body. This body then could be charged with operations of IRB, IACUC, Research Symposium, etc. This would give more prominence to the Research Council. Working with the Provost's office for this reconfiguration consideration will be on the agenda.

F. Attract faculty to share their research interest with their Research Council representatives and GSR. This will enable both entities to more effectively utilize their resources. Many faculty, especially those in non-science fields, remain silent on their scholarly activities. These two entities would love to hear from them, and offer assistance in seeking possible funding. However, real assistance will have to come from department heads and academic deans who will be most aware of their faculty's activities.

III. Finalize time/day of the monthly meeting

The Council meetings have been scheduled for every third Tuesday of the month at 3:30 PM in LIB 420. Therefore, the meetings for this semester will be held on March 18, 2008 and April 15, 2008.

With no further business, the council adjourned at 3:17 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ivona Jukic

cc: Alma Sewell