RESEARCH COUNCIL
MINUTES

Date: September 27, 2017
Start Time: 1:05 p.m. Adjournment Time: 2:40 p.m.
Location: Sandel Hall Room 236

CHAIR	Sami Nazzal
SECRETARY	David Irwin
ATTENDEES	Jeffrey Anderson, Khalid El Sayed, Jana Sutton, Richard Thurlkill, Neil White, Paul Wiedmeier, Karen Witek, Judy Kalinich
ABSENT	Joydeep Bhattarcharjee, Madison Bonnette, Katherine Boswell, Michael Chenowith, Megan Lowe, Siva Murru, John Sutherlin (OSPR),

AGENDA

1. Overview and Updates by S. Nazzal:

    Dr. Nazzal stated the mission of the Research Council (RC) has changed. The RC needs to support faculty pursuing research and grants. The RC should focus upon increasing the % of faculty pursuing grants. There may be multiple factors why some faculty don't pursue more grants: lack of training, lack of time, lack of mentoring, and during meetings with faculty pursuing tenure/promotion the most important criterion stated by Dr. Pani is that the candidate must have strong teaching. Faculty who do not pursue grants need to know that the RC is there to support them. The RC can support faculty in a variety of ways such as trainings, developing policies/procedures that support research and grants, and streamline the process.

    With the addition of staff in the Office of Sponsored Programs and Research (OSPR) more support is being provided to the faculty. Many faculty may not know the variety of ways they can be supported to pursue and obtain grants. Dr. Sutherlin, Director of OSPR and the Research Corporation of Louisiana (RCOL) is developing and implementing procedures and policies to facilitate research and obtaining grants.

    The culture of ULM needs is changing to more research and grants being done by faculty. Dr. Pani and other administrators are developing more doctoral programs at ULM. More faculty need to be "on board" to pursue more grants and realize that obtaining grants can improve education and training of students. Since the majority of time for many faculty is teaching, many faculty do not have time to pursue research and grants and then given "release time" when the grant is obtained. There are many factors and variables in changing this for ULM. Many faculty are also not aware of the process of how to submit proposals to the Institutional Review Board (IRB).

    Faculty need to be aware of grant funding opportunities and being engaged in pursuit of grants and other forms of external funding. The OSPR is now sending out newsletters and information regarding a variety of grant resources. Ms. Kalinich said there is a

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possibility that OSPR is going to hire an IT person to support faculty and staff to navigate the OSPR electronic submission of grants.   Dr. Wiedmeier stated that some faculty are not involved in the Student Research Symposium. He recommended that the format and type of information be changed so more faculty will participate.
Dr. Thurlkill and Dr. White believe more faculty should be involved with Emerging Scholars program. Dr. Irwin stated he would like to learn about Emerging Scholars to increase faculty research.

The discussion then focused upon disincentives which may influence why faculty are not pursuing grant opportunities. These include lack of a website by the RC, lack of mentorship training, little opportunity for collaboration meetings, and difficulty navigating websites and forms required by OSPR.   Dr. Sutton stated that faculty need to have the appropriate amount of "release time" to pursue these opportunities, guidance by OSPR, and trainings regarding the financial aspects of writing and obtaining grant funds.

RECOMMENDATIONS

There were several recommendations reviewed by Dr. Nazzal. These included the following:
- Subdivide the RC into groups to address several issues/policies.
- Divide the objectives into "immediate", "short-term" and "long-term".
- Discuss progress at each meeting. The RC must have a quorum to vote. Dr. Nazzal needs to inform all members of the RC regarding the importance of attending meetings. There is not a single day/time that works for all members to attend.
- A vote by email may be done by Dr. Nazzal regarding the policies/procedures.

NEW BUSINESS

The following objectives were assigned to various members present at the meeting:

IMMEDIATE OBJECTIVES: These are items intended to provide feedback to OSPR and facilitate communication between ULM community, the RC, and OSPR.

Action Items:

(1) Identify a mechanism (including surveys) by which recommended policies could be reviewed by the ULM community for feedback and comments before they are adopted by the RC. This should also allow researchers to address the RC and make suggestions. **Persons responsible: J. Anderson and N. White**

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(2)   Review OSPR webpage (http://www.ulm.edu/research/) for its effectiveness and ease of use for navigation, and make recommendations to OSPR of use to improve the webpage, such as the inclusion of information on the RC. **Persons responsible: P. Wiedmeier and R. Thurlkill.**

(3) Thoroughly critique the routing from (PRAF): that's item 2 in the following webpage http://www.ulm.edu/research/forms.html and make recommendations to OSPR to improve the form and the mechanism by which it is routed, such as using an electronic version. **Persons responsible: J. Witek and J. Sutton.**

(4) Make a recommendation for a policy that would clarify how to calculate cost per square foot of a space which writing grants or asking for in-kind match. **Person responsible: D. Irwin**

SHORT-TERM OBJECTIVES: To establish a ULM wide research umbrella (i.e., aid in the establishment of a culture of research and scholarship).

1A could be folded into 1B

(1A) Identify a mechanism by which ULM could establish a dedicated webpage that lists (1) research interests for each department/school with links to faculty, and (2) a list of ULM facilities (to include instruments) that could be used to support research.
(1B) Make a recommended for an institutional repository. **Table item.**

(2) Identify and/or create core labs/facilities, including the academic innovation center, to encourage cross/departmental collaborations. Once identified, a webpage should be created to promote such facilities. **Table item.**

(3) Recommend the establishment of a faculty club (in collaboration with the faculty senate). **Table item.**

(4) Identify and/or establish ULM wide or internal grants to provide seed money that is (1) needed to jump-start research (but not intended to support research proposals) or (2) to support proposals that would encourage cross/departmental research collaborations. **Table item.**

(5A) From a faculty perspective, review and evaluate policies for intellectual properties, including campus' copyright handbook and establish policies that would best serve the faculty and adequately addresses Creative Commons and issues that may impact research and scholarship. **Person responsible: M. Lowe**

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(5B) Identify mechanisms to encourage submission of intellectual properties.

(6A) Recommend changes to the annual student research day that would better serve the collaboration and mentorship initiatives of the RC. Perhaps include a Summit to include faculty as a group. **Person responsible: P. Wiedmeier.**

(7) Evaluate the emerging scholars program and recommend changes that would promote the long-term mission of ULM. **Person responsible: S. Nazzal**

LONG-TERM OBJECTIVES: To provide focused faculty support. Significant support is provided by the OSPR to faculty who are actively engaged in grant submissions. Although the council will continue to provide support to every faculty, special attention should be given to the majority of faculty who are not engaged in scholarship. The RC should identify limitation and approaches to stimulate support.

(1) Identify university-wide priority research areas to help the faculty who are otherwise not actively involved in research to focus their effort and to facilitate mentorship. **Table item.**

(2) Identify mechanisms to establish mentorship and peer-evaluation, (in collaboration with the Faculty Senate), which may necessitate internal or external support. If needed, create links to P/T requirements and faculty evaluations. **Table item.**

 Respectfully submitted: David Irwin, Secretary