

OFFICE OF THE VICE PRESIDENT FOR RESEARCH

STRATEGIC RESEARCH COMMITTEE

MEETING MINUTES SEPTEMBER 17, 2009

Present: Chairperson Robert Bernhard, Jan Botz, Sunny Boyd, Julia Braungart-Rieker, Paul Brenner, Peg Brinig, Bruce Bunker, Tom Cosimano, Richard Cox, Mark Cummings, Darren Davis, Melanie DeFord, William Gilroy, Jean Gorman, Tom Guinan, Terri Hall, Rick Hilliard, George Keegan, Larry Lamm, Dan Myers, Karen Pace, Liz Rulli, John Stamper, Greg Sterling, Robert Stevenson, Ann Strasser, Richard Taylor

Absent: Agustin Fuentes, Roger Huang, John LoSecco, Patricia Maurice, John Nagle, Tracey Poston, Ramachandran Ramanan, Jennifer Younger

Chairperson, Dr. Bernhard opened the meeting at 12:30 p.m. and reviewed the agenda as distributed.

- I. **Review of June 24, 2009 Minutes** – The minutes were reviewed and approved.
- II. **Announcements** – Members introduced themselves and Dr. Bernhard recognized new member Julia Braungart-Rieker. Dr. Bernhard shared a brief summary of research activity for 2008-2009. The Office of Research noted an increase in both the quantity and dollar volume of proposals submitted including several large NSF proposals and NIH facility renovation grants. Awards for 2008-2009 were 479 awards for \$80.69M. ND's 08-09 expenditures were >\$100M. Dr. Bernhard stressed that expenditures are less variable and more accurately represent the size of a research program. Dr. Bernhard outlined the power of “big things.” Noteworthy items in 08-09 were four big awards in Nuclear physics, the \$5M Templeton award to Professor Christian Smith, ND joining the Indiana Clinical and Translational Sciences Institute (ICTSI), going 3 for 3 in NSF MRI awards and Professor Peter Burns' EFRC award. To date in the 2009-2010 academic year, the University has received >\$30M in awards.

Dr. Bernhard also shared that the Office of Research is upgrading our capability to assist with complex proposals. There is a current search for a Director of Research Development to assist with this endeavor.
- III. **Conflict of Interest** – Dr. Bernhard introduced Marianne Corr, Vice President and General Counsel to discuss the Conflict of Interest Policy that was adopted and approved September 1, 2009. Ms. Corr introduced Ms. Reini, Policy Specialist for the University. Her responsibility includes creating a process of developing & vetting new policies. Mia shared that changes from the old policy are primarily in disclosure and management. The website <http://policy.nd.edu> houses all university policies and contains a copy of the Conflict of Interest policy. Mia highlighted the Reviewer Matrix located in the appendix. An announcement on the new policy will be made in the near future. Any questions should be directed to Mia at mreini@nd.edu or 631-6411.
- IV. **FSAP & ERR** – Dr. Bernhard shared that information on the Faculty Scholarship Award Program (FSAP) & Equipment Restoration & Renewal (ERR) programs would be forthcoming. Please be on the lookout and contact Dr. Bernhard should you have any questions on the programs.

- V. **E-Verify and ARRA Reporting Requirements** – Liz Rulli shared a new federal reporting requirement, E-Verify that became effective September 8, 2009. It is similar to an I-9 employment verification, but is only for federal contracts which contain the e-verify clause, not grants and includes employees working through subcontractors. Employees must be e-verified within 3 days of working on a contract. HR will be completing the process for the affected individuals.

Liz Rulli also provided an update on ARRA Reporting Requirements. The University currently has 13 awards for \$22M that require ARRA Reporting and an additional 80 for >\$100M in the pipeline. Quarterly reports must be made within 10 days of the quarter close. Some of the information required for this reporting include a description of the award, status of project and jobs created or retained. The sanctions are serious for not reporting so Liz asked that faculty over communicate to ensure that we know if any awards, even if they come in via subcontractors, require ARRA reporting.

- VI. **Department Sharing** – The attendees reported various ongoing activities.
- VII. **Adjournment and Next Meeting** – There being no further business brought to this Committee; the meeting adjourned at 2:00 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, October 29, 2009.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert Bernhard
Vice President for Research

/wf