

OFFICE OF THE VICE PRESIDENT FOR RESEARCH

STRATEGIC RESEARCH COMMITTEE

MEETING MINUTES FEBRUARY 4, 2009

Present: Chairperson Robert Bernhard, Peg Brinig, Richard Cox, Mark Cummings, Melanie DeFord, Agustin Fuentes, Terri Hall, Rick Hilliard, Jeff Kantor, John LoSecco, Patricia Maurice, Karen Pace, Tracey Poston, Liz Rulli, John Stamper, Greg Sterling, Ann Strasser, Richard Taylor, Jennifer Younger

Absent: Bruce Bunker, Tom Cosimano, William Gilroy, Jean Gorman, Roger Huang, George Keegan, Larry Lamm, Fred Mittelstaedt, Dan Myers, John Nagle, Randy Ruchti, Robert Stevenson

Chairperson, Dr. Bernhard opened the meeting at 3:05 p.m.

Dr. Bernhard reviewed the agenda as distributed.

I. The minutes of December 3, 2008 were reviewed and approved.

II. Announcements - Dr. Bernhard shared that the Office of the Vice President for Research is closely monitoring the Stimulus Bill. Presently, there appears to be significant opportunities for universities in the bill through substantial funding to the NSF and NIH. Randy Ruchti, Associate Vice President for Research is the central point of contact for collecting and verifying the information received. He is distributing the information gathered weekly to the Provost, Executive Officers and the Deans.

III. Export Control – Dr. Bernhard introduced Tracey Poston, Director of Research Compliance. Tracey shared that Export Control regulations are federal laws that prohibit the unlicensed export for reasons of national security. Often, issues around Export Control can be a surprise. Examples include: Not allowing international graduate students from specific countries to work on specific projects, traveling outside the country with various technology (laptop, GPS systems, etc.) If you have questions on Export Control, please contact Tracey Poston.

IV. Responsible Conduct of Research (RCR) - Tracey Poston, shared that both the NIH and NSF have requirements in RCR. Currently all of our peers within the AAU have formal RCR programs in place, and at least one mandates that all of their graduate students go through designated RCR training. Tracey shared that Dean Sterling has been in contact with the Directors of Graduate Studies and they are working on a plan to implement education on RCR by year-end.

V. Director of Operations – Dr. Bernhard introduced Melanie DeFord, Director of Operations for Centers, Institutes and Special Research Projects to describe her role within the OVPR. Melanie described her position as a “go to” resource for all of the Centers and Institutes. She outlined some of her responsibilities, which include; assisting with the launch of the SAPC initiatives - hiring of administrative personnel, helping to develop fee structures for core facilities, budgets, etc. Melanie is also assisting with the start of a new center, the Center for Social Research and increased administrative support for the Center for Children and Families. She is also assisting with the Proteomics addition to the Mass Spectrometry Facility. Melanie is a key liaison for the Indiana Clinical and Translational Sciences Institute, where Notre Dame is partnering with IU and Purdue for collaboration in clinical and translational sciences.

VI. SAPC II – Dr. Bernhard updated the group about the status of the Strategic Academic Planning Committee (SAPC) second round of proposals from faculty for initiatives that will advance Notre Dame's research endeavors. Concept papers are due March 2nd. Representatives shared the expected number of small and large proposals from each of their respective Colleges.

VII. Department Sharing – The attendees reported various ongoing activities.

VIII. Adjournment and Next meeting – There being no further business brought to this Committee; the meeting was adjourned at 4:10 p.m. Next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 4, 2009.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert Bernhard
Vice President for Research

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