

OFFICE OF THE VICE PRESIDENT FOR RESEARCH

STRATEGIC RESEARCH COMMITTEE

MEETING MINUTES MAY 6, 2009

Present: Chairperson Robert Bernhard, Peg Brinig, Tom Cosimano, Richard Cox, Mark Cummings, Melanie DeFord, Jean Gorman, Terri Hall, Rick Hilliard, George Keegan, Larry Lamm, John LoSecco, Patricia Maurice, Fred Mittelstaedt, Jarek Nabrzyski, Karen Pace, Tracey Poston, Randy Ruchti, Liz Rulli, Greg Sterling, Robert Stevenson, Richard Taylor,

Absent: Bruce Bunker, Agustin Fuentes, William Gilroy, Roger Huang, Dan Myers, John Nagle, John Stamper, Ann Strasser, Jennifer Younger

Chairperson, Dr. Bernhard opened the meeting at 3:05 p.m. and reviewed the agenda as distributed.

- I. **Review of April 1, 2009 Minutes** – The minutes were reviewed and approved.
- II. **Announcements** – Dr. Bernhard offered his thanks and complimented the faculty for getting their NIH Challenge Grant applications in early. To date there is no new information on the NSF MRI or ARI solicitations. The Department of Energy has put out a call for concept papers for ARPA-E, due June 2.
- III. **Center for Research Computing** – Dr. Bernhard introduced Jarek Nabrzyski, Director of the Center for Research Computing (CRC), who joined the University on May 1st. Jarek shared his vision for the CRC. More than just operations, his vision is to hire and retain research faculty that will foster relationships and work with faculty to provide IT support that is not available from standard OIT; including a digital library, data management and visualization. The focus will be on two disciplines; high performance computing and cyberinfrastructure. Jarek will be visiting with various departments over the next few months and requested that if there were suggested contacts to provide him with names.
- IV. **Technology Transfer** – Richard Cox, Director of Technology Transfer presented an overview of the Office of Technology Transfer (OTT). The overarching goal of technology transfer is to see useful new technologies employed for the benefit of society. OTT is a business-oriented service center designed to help ND researchers effectively move useful new technologies into the marketplace, build the research enterprise at ND by fostering relations with industry, and provide additional services related to intellectual property matters. OTT reports to the Vice President for Research and is staffed by a Director, an Assistant and two Licensing Associates.
- V. **Graduate School Update** – Dean Greg Sterling provided an update on Graduate School admissions. This spring, they have had ~4000 applicants and matriculated ~400 students. While some institutions are reducing the number of graduate students, Notre Dame has had an increase in Engineering and Science as compared to last year.

Dean Sterling noted upcoming changes in the Graduate School structure to include Summer School moving to the Registrar and the School of Architecture becoming a separate professional school. The Graduate School is also restructuring the responsibilities of their Associate Deans. Barb Turpin will be the Associate Dean of Students and there will be a new Associate Dean of Recruiting/Admissions. Dean Sterling will also have 2 tenured faculty in part-time Associate Dean positions for Academic Programs and Professional Development.

Lastly, one focus of the Graduate School will be to increase fellowship and grant applications. A committee has formed to focus on this initiative. The Graduate School has hired a grant writer for doctoral students in collaboration with Arts & Letters. It has also co-sponsored summer funding with Science for students who will submit a major proposal. Further, it has launched a

searchable web engine that will permit students to explore 300 options for grants and fellowships. It has also offered Directors of Graduate Studies the opportunity to nominate incoming students for summer funding in order to help them write NSF Research Fellowship applications that they will submit in the fall. The goal is to create a culture of grant writing University-wide.

- 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 4:36 p.m. Next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, June 3, 2009.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert Bernhard
Vice President for Research

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