

University Enrichment Committee
Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, October 7, 2014, 8:00 – 8:50 a.m.
Collins Memorial Library – Misner Room

Attendees: Roger Allen, Terry Beck, Erin Colbert-White, Alyce DeMarais (visitor), Kabir Jensen, Sunil Kukreja, Dawn Padula, Aaron Pomerantz, Sara Shapiro, Randy Worland

Approval of minutes: Minutes from September 9, 2014 were approved as submitted.

Announcements:

Chair Dawn Padula announced that the UEC sponsors the annual Register Lecture that is taking place this year on Nov 13, 7:30 p.m. in the Tahoma Room of Commencement Hall. Sarah Moore and Leon Grunberg will present a joint lecture. Padula encouraged UEC members to attend.

Old Business:

1.) BTF Proposal:

The primary agenda item for the meeting was evaluating last year's committee's proposal to the BTF to obtain additional UEC funds in the hopes of revising and re-submitting it.

Discussion of Student Research Support:

Guest Alyce DeMarais joined the committee for this discussion by providing information on the challenges faced by the Biology department pertaining to limitations in UEC funding in student research over the past years. She stressed that the issues in funding experienced by Biology is undoubtedly representative of challenges felt in other areas of the sciences, in addition to the Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences.

Discussion centered around the fact that there has been a marked increase in student independent research in recent years. While the University supports the increase, it is difficult to support it financially. Consistently, there have been more deserving students than there are stipends available. For those students receiving stipends, there has not been enough research expense support available to cover their research costs. DeMarais was able to provide specific examples from Biology and agreed to share her information to help support the proposal. Additional challenges discussed included the fact that supervising faculty are encouraged to utilize grant funding to help students, but that many faculty do not have grant funding and for those who do, their students are often working outside the parameters of the grant. Such a situation creates additional hardships for students.

In addition, OT/PT graduate students are increasingly turning to the UEC for research funding support.

Committee members clarified further the gap in funding for those students who begin their research in the fall. UEC research support grants awarded in the fall typically support student research in the spring semester. Spring awards support summer work. There are no summer grants to support fall semester research. In the past it was unusual for students to begin their independent research until the spring. Increasingly however, students are starting in the fall. Padula noted that this scenario is representative of one of the committee's Senate Charges for the year, and that discussion and possible implementation of a third deadline is on the committee's agenda for the year.

Discussion of Faculty Travel:

Pressures are being felt in the area of faculty travel as well. Faculty travel allotments have not changed in recent years even as travel costs have steadily increased. While faculty scholarship is increasing in importance, we have been unable to keep pace with higher cost of faculty travel. More data need to be gathered to document the extent of the problem.

Developing the BTF Proposal

The committee discussed the kind of data that should be gathered for the BTF's information. Dawn Padula asked for volunteers to gather information for the upcoming proposal. Sara Shapiro volunteered to gather the graduate data. Erin Colbert-White volunteered to look for the undergraduate data. Sunil Kukreja's office will provide data that could be helpful. Shapiro and Colbert-White will gather data and communicate with Kukreja and Padula. In addition, Roger Allen volunteered to work on gathering specific information surrounding challenges in faculty travel.

DeMarais stressed the importance of tying our request to the mission of the university. Members noted that it is important to be explicit about the background of our requests as we explore the ways the current funding formula might hinder the mission of the University.

2.) Report on Senate Charge #4:

Maria Sampen, Faculty Senate Liaison, notified the Committee electronically that the Faculty Senate has clarified Senate Charge #4 to read: *Formalize and publicize rules for a streamlined application for UEC summer research support.*

New Business:

1.) Summary of UEC funds for 2014-2015 was distributed and discussed.

2.) Subcommittees to review faculty and student research requests:

The following subcommittees were formed:

Faculty Research

Roger Allen
Randy Worland
Jess Smith (Chair)

Student Research

Kabir Jensen (student)
Aaron Pomerantz (student)
Sara Shapiro (Chair)
Terry Beck
Erin Colbert-White

Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 8:52AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Terence Beck
Professor
School of Education