

RESEARCH COUNCIL MINUTES

LIB 420

March 18, 2008

3:30 p.m.

Present: Dr. Girish Shah (Chair), Dr. Joe McGahan, Dr. Ann Findley, Dr. Tammy Parker, Dr. Stephen Fox, Dr. Linda Bryan, Dr. Jean Low, Mr. Don Smith (ex officio), Ivona Jukic (ex officio)

Unable to attend: Dr. James Bulot, Dr. Kenneth Clow, Dr. Florencetta Gibson, Dr. Harold Williamson, Dr. Harihara Mehendale, Dr. Lisa Colvin (ex officio),

I. Approval of Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 3:32 PM. Minutes adopted unanimously.

II. Representation of ULM in statewide research committees

Board of Regents approach – this has to be a unified effort. First, getting together and coming up with a written plan may open the door. Proper way of approaching this plan would be an interdisciplinary proposal/plan and assistance from the upper administration.

For Example, dean Ryman is very supportive of research as evidenced in his willingness to support the Social Science Research Lab. However, one member is of an opinion that if we do not start doing something, LaTech will leave us far behind. Other RC member pointed that LaTech has completely different mission statement and is partnered with agencies such as Department of Defense and LSU System. When talking about LaTech, therefore, we talk about an applied programs mission that supports current national research goals.

III. Improvement in networking for research

Members continued discussing topic of creating robust, more informative web pages. Some faculty are still hesitant to the idea of post departmental research interests and result as a central website's content (It was suggested that ULM's main portal contain "research" tab that would provide first stop for anyone interested to know about ULM's faculty's interests, activities, and involvements).

This topic brought out an idea using Colorado State model where its faculty were challenged to reallocating part of their research resources to solving problems of its community (it was not further elaborated on what "research resources" would be). We may have a window of opportunity right now as mayor Mayo is beginning to listen to his city. It was emphasized, however, that an idea must be unique to our set of circumstances rather than to simply mirror what others are doing.

We can, for example, champion community partnerships. Moreover, we could easily offer services housed in the College of Pharmacy such as involving Medicaid office, community pharmacists and cancer screenings, all of which could be very useful to the area.

It was pointed out that a sort of list of research labs, institutes and centers exist on the Board of Regents website, even though it is outdated, incomplete and very difficult to access. Therefore, there is a need to update this information, which could be a starting point for content development of ULM's research portal.

The request for the study of current resources needs to be formalized. Request would be made to deans, who would the request it from their departments. Dr. Colvin could talk to the deans and make this request, but for right now, RC members agreed that they need to act in the spirit of new approach the University is taking through its shared governance plan. RC members will, therefore, take responsibility of talking to their colleges of creating a list of services, resources, and labs first. Their results will be discussed during the next RC meeting.

It is not clear what constitutes an institute, but that may stem from the lack of policies and procedures that would govern institutional approach toward distinguishing between different levels of such entities and procedures governing uniform establishment of each.

Research vs. Scholarship debate continued into this weeks meeting revolving around the same issues. Again, it was pointed that someone from humanities may not do research but rather that the faculty concentrates on scholarship. One faculty member suggested that someone from humanities be included on the RC so they could address these concerns.

IV. Search for Director of OSPR

This topic was briefly touched upon by which RC established its representation on the search committee.

V. Reminders for the next meeting:

- A. All RCM will create and asses a comprehensive list of units such as research labs, institutes, centers, etc.
- B. Asses potential for research collaborations.
- C. Approach deans and associate deans to see what kind of movement they can be achieved.
- D. Find out who college/department webmasters are
- E. Encourage faculty to encourage students to participate in Research Symposium
- F. Next meeting will be moved to April 22 (time and place stays the same)

With no further business, the council adjourned at 4:44 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ivona Jukic

Cc: Alma Sewell