

**College Research Council**  
**October 26, 2009, 9 a.m.**  
**TRP II Conference Room**

**Members Present:** Dr. Russ Lea, Committee Chair and Vice President for Research; Dr. Roy Daigle, Professor, Computer and Information Sciences; Dr. Catherine Dearman, Chair, Maternal Child Nursing; Mr. Ker Ferguson, Director, Technology and Research Park; Ms. Gina Hedberg, Director, Grants Administration; Dr. Jim Laier, Associate Dean, Engineering; Ms. Dusty Layton, Director, Research Compliance and Assurance; Dr. Laurie Owen, Associate Director, Center for Basic and Translational Sciences; Dr. Maggie Pyle, Director, Sponsored Programs; Dr. Deborah Spake, Associate Dean, College of Business; Mr. Reggie Taylor, Associate Director, Technology Transfer; Dr. Mary Townsley, Assistant Dean/Director, Faculty Affairs, College of Medicine; Dr. Julio Turrens, Associate Dean, Allied Health; and Dr. S. L. Varghese, Associate Dean, Arts and Sciences.

Dr. Andre Green, Assistant Professor, Leadership and Teacher Education, attended as proxy for Dr. Phil Feldman.

**Members Absent:** Mr. Ben Tipton, Associate Controller, Grants and Contracts Accounting; and Dr. Phil Feldman, Associate Dean, College of Education.

Dr. Lea called the meeting to order at 9 a.m. thanking the members for their attendance and participation.

The Council was then provided with a brief overview of the SRA International Meeting that Dr. Lea had attended last week in Seattle. He informed the Council of some of the means being utilized by a number of other institutions to address the budget shortages caused by proration and funding cuts: salary and hiring freezes, travel freezes, furloughs (up to two weeks in some cases), restructuring and/or elimination of positions, and large tuition increases, generally 10%. Dr. Lea added that, with the current focus on K-12 and Health Care—not higher education, generally, the research vice presidents voiced serious concerns about where university research stands, with or without consideration of Recovery Act monies.

Dr. Lea added that USA is in much better shape than many other public and private institutions. USA has been able to withstand the shortages by cutting unit budgets and travel expenses; and increasing tuition and enrollment. This could possibly sustain us for another two years.

Dr. Lea then provided information to the Council on another SRA Conference presentation which dealt with the recent attacks on UCLA's animal research facilities by animal rights activists. In response to these attacks, the university's president issued a statement indicating that animal based research will continue at UCLA, and animal researchers there are now being provided with personal protection 24-7.

**New Faculty Orientation**

Dr. Lea advised that the annual new faculty orientation format does not allow enough time to cover issues relating to faculty research. He noted that during the September 14, 2009 orientation, he was allowed only 20 minutes to cover this topic. Dr. Lea stated that *faculty research* needs to be addressed in a better, more comprehensive way, possibly with a separate new faculty orientation each year, centered on research that could address key topics such as undergraduate research, intellectual property, funding, responsible conduct of research, multidisciplinary research, research collaborations between universities and partners, etc. Dr. Lea added that he would be willing to provide a mid-year retreat for this year's new faculty.

Dr. Lea solicited suggestions from the Council on ways to better provide information on research to new faculty.

Dr. Turrens suggested an annual *new faculty* retreat to include separate breakout sessions which could address areas specific to individual units and which would encourage productive interactions.

Dr. Lea again asked for suggestions from the Council, adding that this issue would be brought up again in future meetings.

**NSF Requirements for Student Training**

Ms. Layton provided information to the Council on the America COMPETES Act's new RCR requirement, adding that Dr. Lea had briefly informed the Council of this new requirement during the last meeting. The Research Compliance Office is currently working with the Graduate School to develop a training plan which would include training modules that would be specific to each discipline (biomedical, social sciences, human subjects, etc.). Instruction in RCR would be an essential element in the mandated training. Much progress has been made toward this end. A subgroup has been formed to assess this, consisting of Dr. Julio Turrens, Dr. James Laier, Dr. Mary Townsley, Ms. Alison Henry, and Ms. Dusty Layton. Several alternatives are under consideration as means to satisfy the training requirements. This training would probably be offered as web-based training as it would be easily verifiable. It is expected that the Subgroup will formulate an auditable plan for USA to be effective January 4, 2010.

It is expected that, at some point, this training will be added as a requirement by other agencies (NOAA, NSF, etc.), and that a statement could be added to each proposal verifying that this training had been provided. The subgroup will suggest the language for this statement. Ms. Layton advised that the next Research Compliance and Assurance Newsletter would include information on this issue.

**ERA FastGrant Update**

Dr. Pyle gave a PowerPoint presentation which provided a brief overview of the new FastGrant system.

Copies of a new form to be used in FastGrant, *Internal Proposal Review* (Exhibit 1), were provided to the Council for review and discussion (Exhibit 1). It was noted that this form will

replace the current *Transmittal Form*. Dr. Pyle informed that implementation teams have been meeting regularly and will be the FastGrant trainers. The Sand Box is up and functional. The proposal routing process was also provided and discussed.

Dr. Pyle advised that ERA is currently working on a draft model, collecting data, user profiles, and loading six years of data; and, once the system is operational, all data entered into the system will be backed up on ERA FastGrant servers for greater security and safety.

### **Faculty Terminations**

Ms. Hedberg informed that the Office of Grants Administration is currently working with the Offices of Human Resources, Payroll, and Academic Affairs to formulate a departure processes that would address those situations where faculty members leave the University's employ while also having active grants in place. Ms. Hedberg will provide information to the council as a process is developed.

It was noted that, currently, the question of grants is addressed on COM departure forms. After completing check lists, the Unit Head signs the Personnel Action Form. At that point, the Unit Head is certifying that all responsibilities relating to the personnel action (departure/appointment termination) have been met, and that certifying Unit Head will be held accountable. A solution being considered would be holding the final paycheck of those faculty members who do not address the issue of outstanding grants. The Office of Grants Administration will continue working toward coming up with a workable plan and keep the council informed of any developments.

Mr. Ferguson added that the Technology and Research Park could be added as another element or layer in the departure process when release of technology is involved.

On another note, Ms. Hedberg added that reporting similar to the ARRA reporting may be added as a new norm on all proposals. She added that she will keep the Council informed of any developments in this regard.

### **Federal Appropriations**

Dr. Lea provided the Council with copies of the *2011 Appropriations Request Form* (Exhibit 2) for discussion, and advised that this form must be used when seeking federal appropriations. This form is required by the delegates. The deadline for submitting fiscal year (FY) 2011 direct federal appropriation requests, through appropriate line of authority to the Office of Governmental Relations, is December 1, 2009.

### **VPIP Summary**

Dr. Lea provided the Council with a brief overview of the Faculty VPIP Award program. A brief period of discussion ensued. Dr. Lea informed that between March 1, 2009 and September 30, 2009, faculty had been awarded \$164,500 for 103 qualifying proposal submissions and 12 funded proposals. Dr. Lea added that he is very pleased with the faculty response to the VPIP and he believes that the program is helping to incentivize our faculty and keep them interested in working collaboratively during these difficult times.

Dr. Lea asked the Council members to submit agenda items as they are encountered for the next meeting [December 15<sup>th</sup>]. With there being no further business before the Council, the meeting was adjourned at 10:25 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandra S. Corry  
Recorder