

College Research Council Meeting

March 9, 2009 - 2 p.m.

TRP Building II, Suite 150

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; Dr. Phil Feldman, Associate Dean, College of Education; Mr. Ker Ferguson, Director, Technology and Research Park; Ms. Gina Hedberg, Director, Grants Administration; 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; Mr. Ben Tipton, Associate Controller, Grants and Contracts Accounting; 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.

Members Absent: Dr. John Steadman, Dean, College of Engineering.

The meeting was called to order by Dr. Lea at 2:05 p.m. Dr. Lea began by thanking everyone present for attending this, the second meeting of the Council.

Campus-wide Seminar: *Entrepreneurial Faculty: perspectives from faculty and tech transfer*
Dr. Lea reminded the Council of the April 1, 2009 seminar, *Entrepreneurial Faculty: perspectives from faculty and tech transfer*, presented by Dr. Kenneth Swartzel [NCSU] and Dr. David Winwood [University of Alabama - Birmingham]. This seminar will focus on the pros and cons of being a faculty inventor/entrepreneur. Dr. Lea stated that he expects a very informative and lively exchange of ideas from the two presenters. A copy of the March 2d invitation memorandum was provided to the members of the Council and they were asked to share this information with post docs and any others who might be interested in attending. Dr. Lea stressed the importance of advanced reservations in order to accommodate everyone who wants to attend.

Equity Policy Draft

A draft of the proposed Equity Policy was provided to the Council for review and discussion, and it was noted that this draft had been shared with President Moulton. The purpose of an equity policy is to eliminate unmanageable financial conflicts of interest that may arise when a start-up company issues founders equity to an inventor who is also eligible to participate in revenue sharing under the net income distribution. An inventor has the option to either accept

founder's equity in a start-up in exchange for providing professional services, or decline founder's equity and participate in the distribution of net income of the start-up—but not both. The Equity Policy is written to have the inventor faculty member declare status. Forfeited founder shares would be transferred to the USA Research and Technology Corporation (RTC). With prior written approval of the Office of the Vice President for Research, the University may accept equity in a start-up in lieu of licensing fees for University-owned intellectual property assets. No board position is taken with University shares. The University would manage University-owned intellectual property assets based upon sound business practices with the objective of liquidating equity when the asset reaches a practicable value. The proposed policy was discussed and there were no changes proposed to the document. Feed-back from the Council toward the proposed policy was positive. It was noted that faculty income received from University start-ups would be treated as supplemental income subject to FICA and state and federal income taxes only.

Next RCR University-wide Focus: Collaborative Research

A listing of NIH Responsible Conduct of Research (RCR) Core Instruction Areas was provided to the members of the Council: Data acquisition, management, sharing, and ownership; Mentor/trainee responsibilities; Publication practices and responsible authorship; Peer review; Collaborative science; Research misconduct; Conflict of interest; Human subjects; and Animal subjects. After a brief discussion, it was determined that the next area of faculty training would be in the area of Collaborative Science, possibly utilizing outside speakers. And, two more Conflict of Commitment/Financial Conflict of Interest workshops would probably be offered for new faculty in the fall. It was agreed that one large Collaborative Science presentation should be provided to faculty followed by several smaller, more focused workshops.

College level Promotion of Funding Opportunities

Dr. Pyle provided the Council with an overview of RSS Feeds, noting that Grants.gov was moving to the RSS Feed service, and that the University would no longer subscribe to IRIS. Several screen shots of resource web pages were provided and explained: *NIH Funding Opportunities Available in RSS Format* [http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/rss_info.htm], and *National Science Foundation, RSS Feeds and Podcasts* [<http://www.nsf.gov/rss/>]. Dr. Pyle added that the Office of Sponsored Programs will provide training within the Colleges, addressing the specific requirements of each College and their faculty, as needed. Dr. Pyle informed that SSTi information could be viewed on the web or printed out. With Auto feed, a faculty member can customize the information he or she receives. The Office of Sponsored Programs will be soon be contacting the Deans to begin setting up the Colleges on the new RSS Feed system.

Conflict of Interest Audit

Dr. Lea informed that the Conflict of Interest audits were near completion and that, overall, the results were promising even though some areas of weakness were found. Our goals were

reached. We have created a University policy, put it forth and communicated it to the faculty, and have audited the process. Dr. Lea added that a central goal of the policy is to protect the faculty and the individual rights of faculty through transparency.

New Invention Disclosure IP Assessment Process

Mr. Taylor provided the Council with a Technology Transfer Process Flow Chart and a Prospect Priority Worksheet for review. With time being limited, Mr. Taylor asked that the Council review these documents and provide feedback at the next meeting. It was noted that these documents relate to technology protection and transfer, not patent distribution. This agenda item was held over for the next meeting.

With there being no further business before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 3:25 p.m. Dr. Lea reminded the Committee that he remains available to them, and asked that the members submit agenda items for the next meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandra S. Corry
Recorder