

Research Committee – Meeting Minutes
2 Dec 2002 - 1:30-3:00PM - 309 PIO

Members present: Damicone, Holcomb, Clements, Melcher, and Mokhtari

1) Update on topics of interest to Research Committee

Research productivity: Data from Joe Alexander on research grants for 1st quarter - FY 2003 were reviewed. Grants and contracts for the period totaled \$49.3 million, an increase of \$28.7 million over 1st quarter - FY 2002.

2) Old business

- a. Research Scientist track – The committee was asked to consider a Research Professor track (non-tenure track) at OSU by Joe Alexander. Alexander provided the committee a list of several universities and whether or not they have such a faculty line. For the Big 12, half of the eight listed currently have this track. The committee felt that the list did little to justify the creation of this type of faculty at OSU. Information on the impact of this faculty line on research productivity would be beneficial. There was no strong sentiment by any committee member to pursue this topic without more information and no one felt the need to try and gather it. There was discussion about inviting Bruce Ackerson, who chaired the Research Committee when a recommendation was last made to add this faculty line, or Steve McKeever, to visit with the research committee about this idea.
- b. Running of research facilities serving multiple units: Melcher presented the results of a survey of 22 multi-unit research/service facilities about funding sources and limitations to client service. Eight of 22 facilities responded to the survey. Funding sources included fees, grants, and University research monies. Equipment purchase, repair, and replacement was a common limitation among the facilities that responded.

3) New business

- a. Review draft of Joe Alexander's proposed guidelines for administering start-up funds: The committee received proposed guidelines for formalizing the distribution of University "Start-Up" funds for new faculty positions. The purpose of these funds is to supplement Faculty Start-Up provided by departments and colleges. Currently there are no established guidelines for distributing these funds. After reviewing the proposed guidelines,

the Research Committee supported the idea of establishing guidelines for the program. A point of contention for some committee members was the statement "Faculty to be targeted for the program are those who have the potential to and are expected to generate external funding that will return F&A to programs operated by the central Administration". Such an arrangement would not allow all new faculty to participate in the program and might create, using the words of a college dean, "a tiered system of research importance". Disciplines differ in their access to F&A because some federal programs limit or do not allow F&A. Conversely, other committee members felt it was equitable to target University Start-Up to those who would generate F&A and put monies back into the program.

- b. Review Faculty Council Recommendation to accept the proposed "Regent's Distinguished Research Award": The guidelines for the proposed Regents Distinguished Research Award were reviewed. Ed Lawry has asked for a recommendation to go before faculty council. The award recognizes and rewards faculty for excellence in research. The award criteria were recommended by a "faculty committee" and the Associate Deans for Research, and approved by the Dean Council. The award parallels the Regents Distinguished Teaching Award in salary supplement and the number of awards per college. The committee unanimously supported the idea of the award and most of the selection criteria. The committee suggested modifying the criteria to increase faculty involvement in nominee selection at both the college and university levels.
- c. Impact of p-card purchases on on overhead limits imposed by federal granting agencies: A question by a faculty member concerned that p-card purchases might violate overhead limits was forwarded by Ed Lawry to the research committee for study. No one on the committee fully understood the question except that OSU might be receiving monies on each p-card purchase from Mastercard, and thus more overhead than is allowed might be realized. The committee will be contacting someone from university purchasing to answer this question.