

**Research Allocations Committee Meeting**  
**Minutes**  
**October 7, 2011, 1 p.m.**  
**Simpson Hall 135**

**Attendees: Glenda Balas, Susan Copeland, Richard Hermann, Gordon Kennedy, Janet Patterson, Christine Sauer, Virginia Shipman (temporary Chair), Gary Weissmann, Tim Ross (visitor).**

**Excused: Astrid Kodric-Brown, Pavel Lushnikov, Peter Vorobieff.**

- I. Approval of the agenda  
Agenda unanimously approved
  
- II. Approval of the Minutes from September 14, 2011  
Minutes unanimously approved

III. Announcements

Dr. Shipman informed the committee members that she has recently received several requests from RAC 2010-2011 awardees for extensions beyond the normal deadline of September 30, 2011. Dr. Shipman also made note that the committee had previously agreed that in most cases, as RAC Chair, she would have the authority to make the decision on these requests, but if she felt it warranted further consideration, the request would involve a full committee vote. Also discussed were the several types of assistantship opportunities that OGS offers graduate students. It was clarified that when proposals submitted to the RAC include help on the project from a graduate student assistant, he or she can only be designated as a Project Assistant (PA), and cannot receive any other OGS designation (TA, GA, or RA) for the RAC work. Discussion among the members also led to the decision that proposals designated as “exemplary” from past RAC awardees continue to be made available (given approval of the PI) as examples to potential RAC applicants.

Dr. Tim Ross, President of the Faculty Senate, attended the RAC October, 2011 meeting to further discuss the changes to the RAC and also to inform the members of some proposed changes to the RAC process in the future. The two returning members who had previously tendered their resignations at the September 2011 RAC meeting clarified their actions and explained their reasoning to Dr. Ross. Discussion centered upon the need for a new Chair given the new term limits for RAC members. Dr. Ross stated that he had spoken to three current RAC members about taking over the position of RAC Chair, one being a returning member whose second two-year term expires at the end of May 2012, and the other two being new members as of the 2011-2012 RAC calendar year. One of these members was reported to have agreed to the spring 2012 semester after further encouragement by Dr. Ross. Dr. Ross noted, however, any decision would be based on the committee member’s vote. Given mixed responses by the members attending the meeting, the search for a replacement Chair for the RAC remains ongoing.

In response to reports by committee members of the information given at our last meeting, Dr. Ross stated that the only actions taken regarding RAC was the change in designation of term limits. The RAC members noted their distress was not over having term limits, but with the manner in which it was done. Not meeting with the RAC members to discuss issues that affect the RAC prior to the Faculty Senate Operations Committee submitting the proposed changes for vote reflected an apparent lack of recognition that knowledge of RAC procedures and responsibilities might provide useful input. The repercussions of this action were compounded by the fact that neither the committee Chair nor the other committee members were

informed of the actions taken this March until the fall semester was about to begin reflected an appalling lack of respect for one's research colleagues.

Dr. Ross also discussed potential future changes to the RAC process. The possibilities mentioned included a potential significant increase to the RAC budget over the next 5 years, the institution and utilization of more electronic means by the RAC, e.g., creation of an online submission process for RAC applicants and an online review process for the committee, the shifting of more of the responsibilities from the RAC Chair to other entities such as the Office of Research, the possibility of course credit/course reduction and/or financial compensation for the RAC Chair, and a revamping and overhauling of the RAC website. Dr. Ross mentioned that the University Secretary's Office has a computer analyst who can assist the committee in the shift to a more electronic submission and review process, and offered the suggestion that she be invited to the November 2011 meeting to further discuss how these changes can be implemented and how she can assist in this process.

#### IV. Review of Small Grant Proposals

**#12-04: Name and Department: Erik Erhardt, Math & Stats; David Hanson, Biology  
Title: Frequentist (bootstrap) and Bayesian modeling of (photo) respiration in plants.  
Amount requested: \$8,119. Action: Not approved.**

**#12-05: Name and Department: Rebecca Lubas, University Libraries  
Title: Efficacy of resource: Description and access as an International standard: Metadata training at the National and University Library of Kosovo.  
Amount requested: \$2,200. Action: Not approved.**

The meeting adjourned at 3:10 p.m.