Approved on 9/27/07

Case Western Reserve University
Research Council Meeting Minutes – 6/12/07

In Attendance:  Anderson, Ash, Barker, Beal, Caplan, Coticchia, Cottington, DeLucci, Gilmore, Goldberg, Han, Landmesser, Madigan, Musil, Nadeau, Rozek, Singer, Weinberg, Speer.  Guest:  Pam Davis

Absent:  Beall, Borchert, Doerschuk, Helper, Kalafatis, Mahoney, Manas-Zloczower, Peckham, Sadid, Scharf, Shane, Wilkinson

Welcome

Lynn Singer opened the meeting; the minutes of the March and April meetings were approved as submitted.

Recommendations of the Research Commission

Lynn turned the meeting over to Tim Beal, Professor of Religion, Director of The Baker-Nord Center for the Humanities, and Council Member who spoke about research in humanities.  Tim reported that the Baker-Nord Center, the interdisciplinary center for research at the College of Arts & Sciences, was funded by a $1.8M grant from the Cleveland Foundation.  Funding for the Center will, however, end in March 2008.

The academic humanities at Case include Modern Languages and Literatures, Music, History, Art History & Art, English, Classics, Philosophy, Religious Studies, Theater and Dance, and Anthropology.

Since there has been such a flux in the administration, Tim reported that it’s been more difficult to obtain funding from foundations.  Due to the University’s recent lack of stability, outside foundations have advised us to contact them at a point when we’re more stable.

We have faculty at Case who have been nominated for Pulitzers, but they remain invisible on campus.  The University needs to work harder to reward scholarship of that magnitude.  Policy makers could become more involved in the effort to raise funding for humanities research (or scholarship as it is sometimes referred to).

Graduate studies in the humanities are in desperate need of support; many university humanities departments don’t have graduate programs, so Case is fortunate in that regard.  Tim reported that other universities have more foundation funding and have substantial internal support from the college and/or university.  Stanford recently offered $5K per year for humanities faculty support.  Emery incorporates added funding within annual
faculty raises; other universities offer travel monies for scholarship. It was noted that significant leverage is gained from faculty receiving a relatively small amount of funding – for example, $5K per year.

There is an opportunity at Case to expand the technology angle of humanities – particularly by Lev Gonick and Iwan Alexander – by focusing on electronic communications, new media technology, research computing, etc.

Chuck Rozek mentioned that funds have been offered to female graduate students to travel to annual meetings, with female humanities grad students receiving funding.

Joe Nadeau mentioned that one of the cancer grants that he reviewed recently reflected a spirituality-related position – if funded, this individual would be hired to address how people make sense out of illness.

Tim distributed a hand-out (attached) used at last year’s American Council of Learned Societies annual meeting.

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**Follow-up to last month’s discussion of the Case/UH Affiliation Agreement and its implications for research**

Aaron Weinberg reviewed the resolution which an ad-hoc group had drafted for the Council, and which follows:

*Draft Resolution on behalf of the Research Council  
April 24, 2007*

**Motion:**

> Whereas the School of Medicine’s research mission is critical to the success and well being of CWRU, and implementation of the CWRU-UHC affiliation agreement is negatively impacting the research mission of the University, the Research Council urgently recommends that the leadership of the University take charge in investigating the implications of the affiliation agreement so that further erosion of faculty participating in the research mission can be mitigated.

It was reviewed by the Jay Alexander, President of the Faculty Senate; however he advised us that sufficient time was not available on their April meeting agenda for discussion.

John Anderson reported that Greg Eastwood had been advised of the situation, and he has since had conversations with both Pam Davis and Jerry Goldberg. A lack of communication has been the biggest problem regarding the terms of the affiliation agreement (and the effect on the Medical School’s faculty.)
Pam Davis, Interim Dean of the School of Medicine, reported that she was not involved in the Case/UH affiliation agreement negotiation, which resulted in a change in the clinical departments – 780 doctors were shifted into one practice plan. She advised Council that the agreement was constructed to protect the academic enterprise – ensuring the flow of funds from the hospital to the Medical School to support clinical research. (The so-called Dean’s tax has caused a $30M deficit at the school). The Case clinicians, represented by Michele Walsh, Physician & Professor of Pediatrics; and Rob Friedland, Physician & Professor of Neurology, at the Research Council’s April meeting, feel they are being shortchanged by having two employers with two different sets of benefits. Case pays for their academic work (grant support is included in this payment); the hospital pays for their clinical work. In order to offset some of the discrepancy, the hospital devised a more robust benefits package in December of 2006, where employees can receive cash back for benefits not used. The clinical faculty now wants Case to devise a comparable plan.

Pam is working with the university to 1) establish a 457F - a tax sheltering retirement plan, and 2) to obtain an incentive payment for clinicians who are over 50% grant-supported at Case – as a reward for “doing good work”.

The hospital will grandfather the Case tuition benefit for the current eight affected employees; but will not offer the benefit for parents/guardians of new incoming students.

Joe Nadeau mentioned that most people at the Med School have not heard the explanation just given by Pam Davis. Arnie Caplan suggested that it would be useful if Dr. Davis would publish a weekly memo with updates. Others supported the idea, observing that keeping people in the loop gains trust.

Issues per Dr. Goldberg:
• Are we managing the change (UHMG/SOM) as best we can?
• Are the problems with the agreement being dealt with at the highest level at the University? (He reported that Dr. Eastwood was aware and working on it.)
• Dr. Goldberg suggested that a meeting be set up to include individuals familiar with the Affiliation Agreement, Research Council and the administration.

Discussion of two new staff positions to increase external funding for research & scholarship

1. What are we not doing now that we should be doing?
   a. Too many bureaucratic roadblocks – perhaps we should hire a “go to person” to navigate across all schools – at the central level. It was noted that all the schools have different rules. It was suggested that we standardize the rules campus wide, then hire and train an individual to be an expert. We need project manager-level individuals – lower level administrators are not sufficient. The Clinic has three such hires – Dr.
Caplan volunteered to obtain their CV’s so that we can review their qualifications and credentials. At a minimum, these persons should have MBA’s and be able to handle interdisciplinary research grants.
b. We need to branch outside of the university, and to use non-traditional agencies such as the U.S. Department of Energy.
c. Jerry, Eric and Mark will meet to further discuss.

2. How do we promote research?
3. If you have any further ideas regarding these positions, please email to Mark Coticchia and copy Becky Barker.
4. Council would like to incorporate these positions into the FY2009 budget.

Follow-up to last month’s discussion of the Environment for Research in the College of Arts & Sciences

- Lynn Singer gave an update regarding ways in which grants are charged toward faculty salaries. John Anderson spoke to Cyrus Taylor regarding the issue – course release is more difficult for the natural sciences. Cyrus will be working on establishing some faculty incentives to increase research productivity.

- The University should authorize a uniform policy from which all the schools could operate with regard to ‘teaching’ salary and how research support plays into that. (I had written the word “silo” during this discussion, but I now don’t remember the reference.

Where is Research Council going?

- Research Council is very useful as a forum for the university - faculty, deans and administration - to discuss significant research-related issues.

- We act as a catalyst.

- How do we perform with the Faculty Senate?
  o The Provost (via the Council Charge) chooses individuals who are all involved in research in one way or another. (Faculty Senate is a wider net that includes both research and non-research faculty).

- Three ways to access the Faculty Senate
  o The Provost
  o The Dean of Graduate Studies (Chuck Rozek)
  o The Chair of the Research Committee of the Faculty Senate (Carol Musil)

- The Provost, and the Chair and Co-Chair of the Agenda Committee will meet to discuss new members for the Agenda Committee for the 2007-2008 academic year.
cc: President-Designate Barbara Snyder
    Interim President Eastwood
    Interim Dean Pamela Davis
    Dean G. Cleveland Gilmore
    Dean Jerold Goldberg
    Dean Mohan Reddy
    Dean Gary Simson
    Dean Cyrus Taylor
    Dean Norman Tien
    Dean May Wykle