

## **Instructional and Research Support Committee Meeting February 20, 2008**

**Present:** Nancy Place, IRSC Chair; Carolyn Brennan, Nives Dolsak, Cynthia Fugate, Munehiro Fukuda, Selina Mohammed, Pete Nye and Becky Reed Rosenberg

### **Adoption of Agenda**

Agenda was approved.

### **Approval of IRSC minutes of November 19, 2007.**

IRSC minutes of January 23, 2008 were approved as amended.

### **Old business**

#### **A. Recommendation for faculty seminar series**

Nancy opened the discussion on the IRSC recommendation for a faculty seminar series with an update on input that she received from some of the EC representatives. She spoke with Gowri Shakar and Bill Erdly who approved the recommendation but had questions regarding cost and logistics, who will coordinate the events?

### **IRSC discussion**

- Will a subcommittee of the IRSC be involved with presenting the seminars or should the recommendation be for Academic Affairs to coordinate and present the seminars?
- How do we determine the cost for the seminars? One way to assess cost is to find out what the event "Choice Words" cost.
- There could be an honorarium offered or this could be tied to an existing grant.
- At this time, we should start with 3 events a year, we can build from there.
- Should the IRSC solicit speakers from the programs directly?
- An IRSC meeting Autumn Quarter could choose speakers for Winter/Spring Quarters of that academic year.
- A deliberate effort should be made to rotate through the programs for speakers.
- In the review process for choosing speakers we should consider timeliness, quality of presenter's research and campus interest that will draw a wide audience, internally and externally.
- We should consider work in progress; it does not necessarily need to be completed work.
- Consideration of solid research and legitimacy in their field are important criteria in choosing a speaker.
- A vita, background material could be circulated in the selection process on each candidate.
- Look at research that captures the public's imagination (i.e. Sustainability).
- Should there be a nomination process rather than a selection process?
- A general application for a call for nominations in Spring Quarter for the coming academic year would be best.

**Action item:** Barb will contact the Office of Development and Alumni Relations to gather budget information on the "Choice Words" event.

### **Motion**

The IRSC will make a recommendation to the GFO Executive Council to establish a Faculty Speaker Series showcasing faculty scholarly activities at UWB to the campus and broader community. We recommend 3 widely advertised public events per year to make the intellectual capital of UWB more visible. The IRSC recommends that a campus wide call for nominations be held Spring Quarter to choose two speakers for Winter and Spring Quarter of the following academic year. These events will follow the UWB Choice Words event Autumn Quarter. Criteria for selection will be developed to help identify a speaker including:

- Solid research activity
- Timeliness of research activity

It is recommended that the Academic Affairs Office be responsible for the coordination and implementation of the Faculty Speaker Series event.

### **New business - Discussion of research issues**

#### **A. Review report from Pete's committee - Where are we now?**

Pete presented the IRSC Annual Report and Recommendations, 2003-2004, "Building a Research Culture at the University of Washington, Bothell". Pete offered a historical context for the report - the IRSC wanted to address the need at UWB to support faculty research. At the time of the report faculty needed to lobby for research support. The report made recommendations in the following areas to address this need:

1) Communicate and demonstrate a strong institutional commitment to research.

- Seed money for pilot studies.
- Summer salary for research-active faculty.
- Increased allocations for travel to research conferences.
- Research assistants.

2) Increase faculty time devoted to research.

- Create "research quarters". An occasional dedicated research quarter (no teaching) would provide the concentrated time blocks needed to make large strides on research projects. Many faculty expressed frustration with fitting research around a heavy teaching schedule.

Nives, Becky and Cynthia are current IRSC members that also collaborated on this report. The goal of the report was to recommend that dedicated faculty development funds be provided for long term research support. Carolyn Brennan from the Office of Research Support spoke to the issue of transitioning faculty research to a more public presence at UWB. Becky Rosenberg also discussed the work of the TLC's Teaching and Research Circles sharing data, providing important ideas on research and support in writing research papers.

### **IRSC discussion**

- Research is happening in some programs. This shows up as a private benefit for faculty, we need to turn this into public benefit.
- Programs need to recognize that research is for the campus and will build a better public presence.
- This is another issue of increasing the intellectual capital of UWB.
- Research culture is building slowly; each program has different strategic planning for research, external support and time management.
- How do we maintain a research agenda where senior faculty can mentor junior faculty?
- We need to revisit this issue - what's the research culture like now?
- The survey that Dan Jacoby is conducting will give some input to the current status of research at UWB.
- One problem here is that some faculty do not see their work as research. Research means different things to different faculty.
- Community-based work is research. Policy work is research.
- We need to link scholarship to research, expand the idea of research into community work.
- The research culture here is attitude-driven at the program level, this touches on academic freedom. Faculty must make the decision what kind of research works for them.
- We need to recognize work beyond that of an R1 publication as quality research.
- We need dedicated funding to create a strong research culture here.
- Faculty need research quarters to succeed, faculty will not come to UWB without research quarters.
- Stacking is an issue at UWB, not all programs grant faculty a research quarter. There is no other way to adequately support research, give faculty what they need to be successful.
- Some faculty need to teach summer quarter, they cannot get the time they need for their research.
- Establish expectation - administration should support faculty research.
- Another issue is the aggressive growth plan for UWB, with more service expected; the quality of our research culture could be impacted.
- The growth issue also could compromise the quality of academic offerings at UWB.
- We need to have a plan, hiring more faculty to focus on teaching and help with the service load.
- The problem of growth could become a crisis.
- How fast can we reasonably grow, what resources do we have to handle the growth?
- How do we proceed, what initiatives would best support faculty research?

### **Conclusion**

IRSC members will speak with their colleagues for input and feedback on what will generate the most research support for faculty. GFO support is needed as well as program director's support.

**B. Integrated collaborative grants - carry over to next meeting.**

**C. Buy outs - carry over to next meeting.**

**D. Worthington and other awards**

Carolyn updated the IRSC on the Worthington awards, she has scheduled information sessions to inform the campus about the changes to the awards. The Worthington Distinguished Faculty Scholarship Award is now called the Teaching, Scholarship Enhancement Projects (TSEP). The Worthington Technology Award fund has been set aside in support of STEM efforts. The Rose Award is available to faculty, Carolyn can assist faculty in the application process. Three initiatives for Centers will give individual faculty seed money to jumpstart research projects and support their work with an emphasis on seeking external funding to keep the Centers going.

**The meeting adjourned at 12:00 pm.**

**The next meeting is tentatively set for March 11, 2008.**

**Minutes submitted by Barbara Van Sant**