

Instructional and Research Support Committee Meeting November 19, 2007

Present: Nancy Place, IRSC Chair; Nives Dolsak, Cynthia Fugate, Munehiro Fukuda, Selina Mohammed, Becky Reed Rosenberg

Absent: Pete Nye

Guest: Mike Stiber, GFO Chair

Mike charged the committee and stated that the EC will not refer any matters to the committee at this time; he asked that the committee set priorities based on current campus issues. Some issues include strategic planning on STEM and non-STEM initiatives and working with the UWB administration on the SIS campus planning.

Nancy opened the discussion with a call for ideas and input from the members on what issues this committee should put on the campus agenda. What should our priorities be for 2007-08?

IRSC discussion points

- The discussion of a north campus brings many of our issues into focus, how do we attract more students to UWB? What can we do to meet the needs of the region at UWB?
 - We need to tell our story, increase our presence in the community.
 - Increase our research presence, there is great work being done by the faculty here, we need to make that known.
 - How does UWB contribute to academia? Advertise our research activity to our external constituents.
 - We need to show our intellectual capital, ways to do that: public lectures, poster presentations and student presentations. Widely advertise and hold monthly events to bring people here.
 - Showcase our students and faculty, bring the public to UWB, make ourselves visible.
 - Faculty Speaker Series - use our UWB webpage and pod cast faculty lectures. Introduce the series, circulate information through the webpage, update the homepage on faculty research on a bi-monthly basis, keep it current and interesting.
 - Work with Web Services on the webpage design and marketing.
 - Generate internal and external funding for faculty research.
 - Create policies and procedures that facilitate research.
 - Address the issues of faculty buy-out and stacking courses.
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- Faculty research productivity could be supported with the use of TAs and RAs.
 - Look at organizational structure to free up faculty time (stacking courses), not all policy changes need to be resource based.
 - How are these practices employed across programs? Which programs employ RAs?
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- Create more opportunities for faculty to share their research - poster sessions, etc.
 - The Mary Gates Undergraduate Research Symposium - why don't our students present at this event? By the time our students can apply, they are ready to graduate; this limits their

opportunities for Gates Scholarships. We need to coordinate with faculty groups for Gates Scholarship awardees to present at UWB and Mary Gates.

- Assess undergraduate grants and awards and look at ways to coordinate community based events.
- Invite the public, business and industry as well as faculty, students, parents and future student to these events.

Becky talked with the committee about approaches that are useful for bringing information to the public and shaping events around community based practice, undergraduate research and faculty workshops. She would like to see more conversations about service learning here to build on support for our teaching practice. We need to make visible the work of UWB Teaching Circles, focus groups, diversity grants and start to focus on our STEM pedagogy. The IRSC has replaced the Teaching/Learning Advisory Group to work with the Teaching/Learning Center on advising on grants and other issues.

Cynthia informed the committee on issues that the Technology Policy Advisory Group (TPAG) is working on that could be relevant to the IRSC. The TPAG is an administrative committee that studies technology issues on campus - media, computers, software acquisition, etc. These services support faculty teaching and research and are issues that IRSC should have input on. Some current issues that the TPAG is looking at are the Course Management System (Blackboard) at UWB and the best way to support the Nursing Program's Mt. Vernon site. The IRSC will be involved in assessing resources and advising this group and the EC on budgeting and other decision-making. It is important to decide on pathways of decision-making with the EC, IRSC and Academic Services. Some decisions are needed by the end of the academic year on whether to stay with Blackboard or move to an E portfolio or other service. Some budgetary decisions will be needed on licensing cost and staffing considerations.

The IRSC will invite Carolyn Brennan, Director of Office of Research Support to join the IRSC to consult and partner with to create better opportunities for interdisciplinary research. Other important issues include the status of UWB awards and endowments and program use of metrics for teaching.

IRSC discussion points

- How are decisions made on awards at UWB, what is the status of the Worthington Awards and the Worthington Technology Awards?
- The new measurement instrument that IAS is utilizing to measure teaching could impact promotion, tenure and faculty research.
- Metrics for research and service could also be developed. Concerns stem from the possibility of distortions in measuring service and what is not acknowledged.
- Metrics can be used to make more visible what UWB is doing and share this information across fields.
- This practice needs to be harmonized at a campus level, if not a university level.
- Balance in programs is not consistent on how faculty will be evaluated for promotion and tenure at a university level.
- This also raises questions on academic freedom and equity.
- Assessment of good/bad practices is needed before this is adopted across campus.

The IRSC evaluated and prioritized issues for the academic year.

IRSC Priorities for 2007-08

December 12, 2007

- Grant review - Selina, Nives and Pete will work with Becky, Director TLC.

January 2008

1. Make visible UWB's intellectual capital.
 - Partner with Elizabeth Fischtziur and Alex Webster.

UWB website

- Partner with Jason Beard

Undergraduate research symposium

- Partner with Elizabeth Fischtziur and Alex Webster.

February 2008

2. Research Issues
 - Partner with Carolyn Brennen
- a. Integrated Collaborative grants
- b. Buy outs
- c. Worthington Awards, etc.

March 2008

3. TLC - priorities and effectiveness
 - Tech decisions pathway/process
 - Tech Advisory Group - Munehiro will serve as IRSC liaison

April 2008

4. Blackboard/E Portfolio

May 2008

5. Measurement of teaching/research/service
 - Study/collect best/worst practices of other institutions

**The meeting adjourned at 12:00 pm.
The next IRSC meeting will be announced.
Minutes submitted by Barbara Van Sant**