

USFSP Faculty Research Council Meeting Minutes

January 22, 2010, COQ 201

Present: Alex Brice, Deby Cassill, Jim Fellows, Deb Henry, Michiko Otsuki, Pat Scott, Todd Shank (Chair), and Charlie Vanover

Regrets: Malcolm Butler, Faculty Senate Liaison

Meeting was called to order at 10:08.

Old Business

Progress on the Faculty Research Network – Council discussed the purpose of the network; describing it primarily as an open database of research assistant opportunities. Faculty with funding or applying for grants, who are looking to hire undergraduate or graduate students to work in their programs, would be able to post listings to the network. Likewise, interested students would be able to access the database, view available positions and then perhaps apply online. There are details that still need to be worked out such as a format for describing the opportunities, the actual application, interviewing, and selection process and ways the student might be remunerated. Assistantships may include monetary pay or course / research credit, for example. Council discussed “Directed Research” courses that are already available through USFSP. Results of providing assistantships may include improved research skills in students, advancing the research output of the faculty, increase the number of formal presentations and publications, which in turn enhances the academic success of the student and benefits the faculty and institution.

USFSP Research Month

The dates for Research Month have been set, March 29 through April 28. Pat stated that there was interest in a “green” theme. The Council discussed terminology and marketing. Several members preferred the related term/theme of “Sustainability” with its broader scope, encompassing social, economic, and environmental aspects. Michiko suggested using Facebook as a marketing tool as well as traditional methods. A kick-off event will held in the Harborwalk area (date TBA). Pat described her idea of a “research comes alive” fair, inviting community partners to participate with the university community. She announced three signature events: the Undergraduate Symposium (April 22), Graduate Research Expo (April 13), and Honors Week. Council members may be invited to serve as jurors for the undergraduate projects. Pat shared that the training sessions for students who want to have their posters published has been very successful; over 200 students have received and/or signed up for training.

In addition to the events, four panel sessions and four research-focused training opportunities for faculty are also in the works. Panels will be tied to four selected USFSP classes being taught spring semester and opened to the entire campus during the panel session. The faculty training sessions may include topics such as foundation funding, budget preparation and awards. Pat described foundation funding as a new opportunity that is opening up to all colleges. Proposals are required and knowledge of the guiding rules is necessary, hence the training opportunity.

Deby suggested a “data blitz” as a way to promote research on campus. Every faculty member would be invited to make a very short (2-5 minutes) presentation of his/her research interests. Deby shared a number of ideas about how this could be done, e.g. a 2-hour social of some kind, maybe over a few days, where faculty to drop in and present/hear these chats. The presentations might be taped so that they could also be viewed on the video monitors throughout the campus. Charlie and Pat added that they are working on a similar idea to use during orientations. Alex suggested that some of the

research information created for the FR Network could also be displayed around campus as part of the public relations outreach.

New Business

Spring semester speaker – The Council debated the merits of bringing in a speaker to talk about grants, r foundation funding, and other topics. Some members felt that faculty would be better served by individualized help with regard to specific parts of the grant process. Pat offered her office as a clearing house to link up faculty with specific needs to an expert who could assist them. It was noted that USFSP already has some very successful grant recipients. Pat offered to explore who on campus might be willing and available to talk to faculty as a group as well. Alex mentioned the need for a statistician; Deby suggested that her CAS colleague, Armando Hoare, might be willing to advise. Michiko also offered her expertise as well.

Continued discussion of Strategic Plan / research goals

Undergraduate/graduate publication – Alex suggested something similar to the online journal published by UCF, which was refereed by faculty. The UCF publication was produced as both an HTML and PDF document. The university did not copyright the journal so authors could continue their research and pursue other presentation and publishing opportunities. Articles could have a page/word limit and the journal might include abstracts or works in progress as well. Several possible sources for articles already exist such as the Writer’s Showcase and the Undergraduate Symposium. Advertising should stress the advantages of being published before graduation. Alex believes that the publication could be initiated as early as fall 2010.

Action: Council will continue to pursue this idea and work on some kind of template that students could then follow to prepare their work for submission.

Research Forums – This is being addressed with Research Month activities and suggestions such as the “data blitz” idea.

Dialogues with Dr. Noonan – A few issues were brought up at the meeting as possible conversations.

Action: At the February 19th meeting, Council will develop and formalize some questions. Then, Dr. Noonan will be invited to a Council meeting to discuss these.

Other discussions

Todd announced that in May he will be leading a group of COB students to Cambodia and Thailand where they will study firsthand the relationship between business and the environment. The program includes a volunteer component as well.

There was a brief discussion concerning research requirements for tenure and faculty computing needs. The Research Council would like to see these issues, which are of concern to the entire faculty body, discussed at the Senate level as well.

Todd suggested that the rest of the agenda be tabled for the next meeting. Jim moved to adjourn, Deby seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned at 12 pm.

Respectfully submitted:

Deb Henry
Council Secretary