

Minutes of November 14, 2014 Meeting of Senate Growth and Development Committee
December 5, 2014

Attendance: Marcy Balunas, Dianne Beer, Tracie Borden, Jake Broccolo, Masha Gordina, Shanna Graham, Kathy Hendrickson, Jeanne Martin, Larry Renfro, Lyle Scruggs, Faquir Jain. M. Warren (Observer).

Invited Guests: Jeffrey Seeman (Vice President for Research), Lawrence Silbart (Vice Provost), and Steven Suib (IMS Director)

Jeffrey Seeman, Vice President for Research, shared his perspective about generating the support for graduate student and faculty research. He noted the support of Bioscience Connecticut and NextGen to build physical infrastructure and funding fellowships. He mentioned the plan regarding competitive grants (Tier 1, Tier 2 and Tier 3) which coincidentally were due that day. L. Renfro noted the need to get at least Tier 1 proposals externally reviewed.

F. Jain provided a copy of the G & D Committee's April 2014 Meeting Minutes in which a comparison of UCONN with peer AAU member institutions was carried out. J. Seeman noted that it would be better if we included a column where R&D federal dollar support per faculty was compared. He observed that we needed to search into ways to grow research dollars per faculty, and create conditions that foster multi-disciplinary centers with budgets in the \$10-20M/year range. These types of Centers are the hallmark of big universities. He also commented about lack of faculty with membership in National Academy of Sciences and/or Engineering (currently we have one professor with academy membership). There is a clear need to attract prominent academy caliber professors.

M. Gordina noted the need to have a research infrastructure at UConn which promotes enhanced grant submission, account management, and dissemination of grant solicitations. J. Seeman mentioned "do take responsibility now to meet your expectations". He mentioned the recruitment of Research Administrative Manager from Yale, and also asked the committee members and faculty to send an email to him in case there are grant related issues.

Responding to the need of increased graduate enrollment in light of AAU norms, he noted that part of the Academic Plan addresses the growth of Graduate Programs with increased extramural funding. The discussion shifted to increased fringe benefit costs to support graduate assistants. M. Balunas asked if the costs are different than other AAU institutions. A number of 35% was noted. J. Seeman informed that they are in the midst of negotiations with UAW union which represents Graduate Student Union. J. Martin asked if there are any results. J. Seeman noted that they would post facts about ongoing negotiations on a University website.

In response to L. Renfro's question, J. Seeman mentioned that for AY 2015-16 we would follow the current rates.

The discussion shifted to the merits of being invited as an AAU member following L. Scruggs' observation. Georgia Tech was noted as a peer institution in terms of evaluating AAU metrics. J. Seeman observed that it was how to choose those metrics- better, bigger, and more successful research entrepreneurs. L. Renfro remarked – how do we encourage faculty to go for more dollars and set up a reward structure.

Lawrence Silbart and Steven Suib updated the members about the progress of Next Generation Connecticut and the Technology Park. Copies of a PowerPoint document were distributed.

L. Silbart observed the \$1.7B Next Generation Connecticut plan envisions 6,500 students (including 1,500 at regional campuses), 259 faculty lines, and 5 new buildings. He noted that the state views UCONN as an Economic Engine that would bring new companies and foster growth.

L. Renfro asked how to realign enrollment in light of hiring freeze. L. Silbart noted that the enrollment at regional campuses is up by 300 and Storrs as at the 2013 level. The current enrollment is 3550 (3700 two year ago). He added that 30 faculty searches are ongoing and the state does not directly control our positions. He quickly added that we usually follow suit.

In terms of new buildings, two new dorms, Science and Engineering Building, IPB (Technology Park), and Science Building-I are planned. J. Broccolo asked about the details of new student dorms. L. Silbart replied that one STEM and one Honors dorm are envisioned which will house about 1350 students. L. Renfro observed that the planners at UConn have no clue about class room and laboratory needs.

L. Silbart informed that at the Stamford campus the focus is on Digital Media and Design, and Business programs. He also noted that they expect 300 or so proposals in response to Tier-I, Tier-II and Tier-III internal solicitations with about \$3.0M in funding. In addition, \$1M is set aside for the equipment proposals.

L. Silbart provided details regarding the Technology Park, where most of the space is slated for industry sponsored centers (~9) during Phase-I. The cost of Phase-I building (IPB) is \$172M.

S. Suib informed about the setting up of a \$25M Advanced Materials Characterization facility at the Tech Park. This will showcase FEI instruments with corporate sponsorship of about \$12.5M including in-kind maintenance contracts, \$50K support for one student, and support to hire 1.5 Tech Staff position. This was followed by a discussion about indirect costs (IDC) sharing by the IMS which will manage this facility. Also there was a discussion about the usage by UConn researchers vs industrial users. It seems that industry users will get preference during regular working hours.

The meeting adjourned at 11:45am.

Fall meetings: Thursday, September 4, 2014 at 11:00am Hall Building, Room 123.

Friday, September 26th 2014 at 10:00am, Hall Building, Room 123.

Friday, October 17, 2014 at 10:00am, Hall Building, Room 123.

Sally Reis, Vice Provost will discuss Academic Plan implementation.

October 31st 2014, 10:00am Kent Holsinger, Hall Building, Room 123.

10:30 am Barbara O'Connor (to be rescheduled)

November 14, 2014, 10:00am Jeff Seeman, Hall Building, Room 123.

10:30am Lawrence Silbart and Steven Suib

December 5, 2014, 10:00am Joshua Newton, Hall Building, Room 123.

10:30am Laura Cruickshank and Beverly Wood.

Growth and Development Committee Members: Reda Ammar, Marcy Balunas, David Benson, Robert Bird, Dianne Beer, Tracie Borden, Jake Broccolo, Joseph Crivello, Masha Gordina, Shanna Graham, Kathy Hendrickson, Kathryn Libal, Jeanne Martin, Erin Mason, Daniel Mercier, Andrew Moiseff, James Renfro, Lyle Scruggs, Dana Wilder, Faquir Jain