

Approved Unanimously: October 9, 2020 G&D Committee Meeting

Meeting Minutes: September 11, 2020

The meeting was attended by the following members:

Michael Accorsi
Christopher Bernard
Tracy Borden
Ming-Hui Chen
Gregory Kivenzor
Jessica McBride
Michael Rodriguez
Jeffrey Shoulson
Casa Tutita
Ethan Werstler
Mehdi Anwar

Absent: Kristi Napolitano, Katherine McCarthy, Carl Rivers

The meeting started at 10:04 am. A minute of silence was observed to pay respect to the departed souls and remember the tragic September 11, 2001 event.

Members felt a great need to create an environment that promotes intercollegiate and interdisciplinary research and education. A lack of recognition for the time invested to prepare for and submit unsuccessful large grant proposals might lead faculty members not to pursue such opportunities. There should be a mechanism during PT&R and/or merit evaluations where such efforts could be recognized. Moreover, though institutional support is forthcoming for funded grants, such a support structure to identify funding, proposal preparation and other assistance is yet to be established.

School of Education has engaged a cluster of faculty to go after large external grants in the areas of Educational Psychology, Maths education, and other related areas. School of Engineering has recently engaged in a \$10 million multi-university proposal. The processing of such large grants along with the regular grants, that for SoE only is about 4 proposal/faculty/year, stresses OSP's pre-award wing. The university needs to establish a process that will allow faculty members to devote their time in preparing a good proposal while the other necessary steps and processes are taken care of in a timely fashion by OSP or partly by the school or department. With a success rate of about 10% with NSF and 8% with other funding agencies, with these numbers changing with disciplines, pre-award processing needs to be reorganized if UConn were to implement the President's vision of doubling research expenditure in the next 10 years.

Participation of regional campuses in evolving R&D strategy was stressed along with minimizing the impact of distance divide that has the potential to suppress partnerships among the regional and main campuses and the health center. The presence of high-quality faculty at the regional campuses and their willingness to either carry out independent research or to be part

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of a research team was stressed. A greater involvement with industry was mentioned. It is felt that such an approach could start with an assessment of industry technology gaps as related to national needs and UConn's current R&D capability to address such gaps. It was felt that UConn should create R&D opportunities using an approach that is being used by universities recognized for their research.

Resource allocation for the library to function especially during COVID pandemic when access to library resources is dominantly online, was pointed out. The formation of the university wide Library task force was mentioned, and Michael Rodriguez agreed to provide readouts of the task force meetings to this committee.

The members agreed to provide names of possible internal and external experts to discuss the R&D best practices.

Meeting was adjourned at 11:03 am.