

Approved Unanimously at the December 11, 2020 Senate G&D Committee Meeting

Meeting Minutes: November 13, 2020

The meeting was attended by the following members:

Michael Accorsi

Christopher Bernard

Tracy Borden

Ming-Hui Chen

Gregory Kivenzor

Jessica McBride

Katherine McCarthy

Carl Rivers

Michael Rodriguez

Jeffrey Shoulson

Casa Tutita

Ethan Werstler

Mehdi Anwar

Guest: Dr. Kazem Kazerounian, Dean of School of Engineering, UConn

Absent: Kristi Napolitano

1. The meeting started at 10:00 am.
2. The October 9, 2020, meeting minutes were unanimously approved.
3. The committee was notified of our next guest, Dr. Anthony Vella, Senior Associate Dean of Research Planning and Coordination, UConn School of Medicine.
4. Dr. Kazem Kazerounian, started by pointing out considerable increase in R&D expenditure in School of Engineering (SoE) in recent years. Some of the highlights of his presentation is as follows:
  - a. SoE is providing the support for faculty to be productive by
    - i. Assisting with budget preparation
    - ii. Assisting in editorial support to prepare proposals.
    - iii. Assisting young faculty with the process to land external funding.
  - b. Targeting 2-nontraditional funding sources such as industry and Department of Defense (DoD). This requires demonstration of research flexibility while for DoD requires advocacy and working with Government Relations. This approach has already resulted in multi-year multi-million-dollar funding from the Navy and more recently from the Air Force.
  - c. Additional assistance to faculty unable to bring in external funding. SoE extends their helping hand to faculty who are engaged in writing proposals but with a hit rate of "0".

- d. Career Award Workshops for young faculty. It is observed that the success rate is around 50%-60% for faculty attending workshop and 0% for young faculty who did not.

The Dean identified "Space" as a major challenge and space allocation/creation should be looked into by the Office of the Provost and the University Planning Committee. The Dean clearly articulated support for Social Sciences and similar programs – but also pointed out that the university should not be considered as a funding agency.

5. In responding to questions on availability of facilities for faculty members to be successful in attracting external funding, the Dean pointed to the concept of Center centric modality that will assist faculty with preparation of budget and editorial help. He pointed out the availability of part-time and full-time staff members in SoE assisting faculty with proposal preparation. It is expected that technical writers will be supported by equal contributions from the Office of the Dean, Department and Faculty, but quite often the Office of the Dean covers for the faculty.
6. In responding to question regarding Center-centric approach, the Dean stated his preference for faculty to approach centers for research related affairs, be it pre-award or research related purchase. Departments that currently supports faculty with pre-award and purchases should be supporting students and other curricular related issues.
7. In response to a question, the Dean observed that OSP is stressed out and building a relationship between OVPR and Centers might make sense. This could require Center personnel to be trained and trusted by OVPR.
8. The Dean pointed out the initial steps taken to attract Classified Research is reponse to another question.
9. Meeting was adjourned at 11:10 am.