

## Minutes of University Enrichment Committee meeting

Wednesday, January 28, 2009

Present: Amy Spivey (chair), Sarah Moore, Leslie Saucedo, Matt Warning, Rand Worland, Michael Johnson, William Barry, Tamiko Nimura, Randy Bentson, Paula Wilson, John Rindo

The chair opened the meeting.

- I. The chair announced that nominations for the Register Faculty Lecture are due by March 2<sup>nd</sup> and welcomed everyone to consider nominating someone and to remind others of the due date.
- II. There was a short discussion of electing a secretary for the semester or rotating the position. All were in favor of rotating the position, although not all agreed to participate.
- III. The minutes from the November 19th, 2008 meeting were M/S/P.
- IV. The rest of the meeting was a discussion of possible modifications of the Dirk Andrew Phibbs Memorial Award. The funds from the endowment (~\$4,000-\$5,000 per year) are currently added to the general UEC faculty research fund. The recipient of the award has previously been decided as follows: the Associate Dean compiled a short list of candidates from the pool of faculty who had received UEC funding and who had completed a project. The UEC committee then selected the awardee from this list. Besides the original UEC research grant, there was no additional financial award. Based on previous discussions during UEC meetings, the Chair and Sarah Moore had drafted a new proposal for choosing and honoring a Phibbs Award recipient that was still consistent with the original MOU. The proposal included a call for nominations, submission of an application, a \$1,000 award to be used towards research-related travel or other expenses and a final report from the recipient as to how the funds were spent.

Sarah began the discussion by explaining some of the motivation behind the new proposal. She noted that the current method restricts the award to those who have received UEC funding, whereas many faculty performing research acquire outside funds. The proposed changes would allow those faculty members to be considered. Sarah noted that she had discussed the proposed changes with Donor Relations and that it was determined that the cash component of the award should go towards research, rather than be an honorarium.

Rand Worland wondered if a separate application for a special category of faculty research fund was worthwhile given the funds were already deposited in the general faculty research fund.

Sarah suggested that perhaps one faculty recipient of UEC research funds would instead be a recipient of the Phibbs award and extra money.

Matt Warning cited language in the MOU that emphasized teaching as a main criterion of the award, with research activities serving as a means to better teaching.

The committee reviewed the language of the MOU and noted that teaching was only emphasized in the description of how the funds should be dispersed after the Phibbs have both passed away.

Tamiko asked if the Phibbs could be consulted for clarification of the spirit behind the award.

Sarah indicated that the Phibbs had already been spoken to on this matter.

Matt indicated that it seems appropriate that the award should be converted to a teaching award after the Phibbs have both passed away.

The committee discussed whether we should consider teaching and travel when making future awards. Neither component is currently included in applications for UEC faculty research.

Bill Barry indicated that he is not in favor of changing guidelines for UEC faculty research awards. He prefers that we designate some applicants who best reflect the MOU as Phibbs awardees and not include any additional cash award.

Next there was a discussion of how many Phibbs awards could be chosen each year. What if no candidates fit the MOU one year or what if there are 5 strong candidates?

Sarah noted that there is an expectation for at least one award each year. Conversely, too many awards would surpass the amount of funds contributed by the Phibbs to the general pool.

Upon further discussion, the committee decided to choose one Phibbs awardee per semester, with the award coinciding with the announcement of receiving UEC faculty research funding. In the award letter, the recipient will be named as a Phibbs research scholar. Research that emphasizes travel will be a strong criterion for selection. Thus, there will be no separate application or additional monetary award, however the award will now be tied to UEC funding of proposed research, rather than past accomplishments.

Applying the above process for designating recipients of the Phibbs Award was called to a vote; all were in favor.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:23pm.

Respectively Submitted,  
Leslie Saucedo