

MINUTES
University Enrichment Committee
October 6, 2010
Misner Room

Present: Jennifer Utrata, Danny McMillian, Heidi Orloff, Dawn Padula, Benjamin Tromly, Peter Greenfield, Sunil Kukreja, Jim Evans, Brendan Lanctot

1. Call to order

2. Approval of Minutes (from 4/19/10, 9/8/10).
Both sets of minutes were approved with no revisions.

3. Announcements

The following subcommittee assignments were announced:

a. Student research grants (application deadline 11/10): J Evans (convening member), K Hale, B Lanctot, B Tromly and Dan Guilak (student representative)

b. Faculty research grants (application deadline 12/1): H Orloff (convening member), D McMillian, J Utrata, D Padula and Preston Van Buren (student rep)

The next UEC meeting is scheduled for November 3rd.

4. Prioritize charges from Faculty Senate

As mentioned at our last meeting (9/8/10), the following are the new charges from the Faculty Senate for the UEC:

1. Reconsider the category caps in the conference travel reimbursement scheme, with an eye to increasing fairness across disciplines without impacting the total budget.
2. Draft a request to the Budget Task Force to increase support for conference travel.
3. Consider making it possible for applicants with pending sabbaticals whose projects will require IRB approval to apply for funding before IRB approval has been granted. IRB approval often cannot be obtained so early. Disbursement of funds would still be contingent on IRB approval.
4. Consider adjustments to student research and travel award criteria to "spread the wealth".
5. Standardize reimbursement for mailing and printing costs (similar to mileage reimbursement) for student research grants.

Prof Greenfield noted that to address charges 1 & 2 immediately would require submitting a request to the Budget Task Force within 1 week. He then summarized the situation

regarding the current system of caps, a conversation, which is detailed in the minutes of meetings of this committee from the '09-'10 academic year. The most concrete issue is the high registration fee for certain conferences but there are more complex issues as well, relating to the flexibility of the travel caps. Prof. Greenfield proposed postponing this discussion, so that we could offer a substantive proposal to the BTF the following year.

With respect to charge #3, the possibility of making the final sabbatical award contingent on IRB approval was discussed. Prof Evans also suggested inviting an IRB member to an upcoming UEC meeting to facilitate tackling the issue. With regards to student research projects, there was a consensus regarding maintaining the current system in place.

The priority of the charges for the UEC would be: 3, 4, 5, 1, 2. With respect to charges #5 and #4, it was agreed that the committee ought to wait for feedback from departments regarding the average expenditures of mailings, etc., and to examine the student research applications submitted this academic year.

5. Begin discussion of first priority

Prof. Greenfield proposed taking this charge #3 up in the following meeting.

6. Adjournment