

Meeting of University Enrichment Committee, 11 October 1995

Members absent: Elliott, Kadarky

Previous minutes: none taken

Old business: John Finney reminded Committee members to assist in publicizing the upcoming Register Lecture (to be presented Alan Thorndike, Physics).

New business:

1. Student Research Support.

The UEC reviewed a draft memorandum for submission to the budget committee requesting additional support for student research. Committee members suggested that the memorandum might incorporate "success stories" about research grants, emphasize the contribution of research grants to successful pedagogy, and point out that changing patterns of enrollment (e.g. increased enrollments in biology) place additional demands upon scarce research funds.

2. The Status of Current Research and Travel Grants

John Finney informally reviewed the status of current research and travel grants, pointing out that all travel grants (approximately 75) have been closed out, and that all but "four or five" research grant recipients have submitted reports (those who have not will receive gentle yet firm reminders from J. Finney).

3. Use of Laptop Computers

John Finney informed committee members that the university's two laptop computers are insufficient to meet faculty demand, especially during the summer months, when faculty depart from campus to conduct research. The UEC, J. Finney proposed, could respond to this scarcity in two ways: (a) by tightening restrictions on access to the machines (vigilantly guarding against nonresearch use); or (b) purchasing additional machines out of UEC funds. Some UEC members proposed a third alternative: encouraging faculty members to rent machines, and financing their rental through UEC research grants. Others thought repeated outlays for rental might be an inefficient use of UEC funds. Committee members agreed to invite Raney Ellis, Associate Vice President for Information Services, to discuss whether he might help us resolve this problem (i.e. with his funds), and tabled a final decision until after meeting with him.

4. Pedagogy Travel Grants

John Finney apprised committee members that the UEC faced a small problem with pedagogy travel grants: the grants permitted faculty members to have to separate first trip opportunities (one under the auspices of the traditional travel grant to support scholarly presentations, and another at a pedagogical conference). Extended discussion about the best way to remedy the problem ensued: should we merge all funds into a single pool, earmarking a certain percentage for pedagogy, or should we amend the pedagogy grant statement, indicating that an award under it would count as a first trip?

John Finney offered to present these alternatives in writing at the next UEC meeting.

5. Second Trip Deadline

The committee reviewed the current May 1st deadline for second trip proposals. John Finney indicated that he had received 11 additional applications for first trips after the May 1st deadline, 10 of which arrived by July 1st. Should the deadline be moved to June 1st or July 1st, John Finney queried, in order to maximize the distribution of first grant money across the faculty? The

members of the UEC unanimously approved a proposal to move the deadline for first trip submissions to July 1st.

Its business completed, the committee adjourned.

Recording Secretary,

Thomas Weko