

Research Council 2008-2009 Annual Report

Membership

Alan Herlihy, Chair '09	Fisheries & Wildlife
Kim Anderson '09	Environmental and Molecular Toxicology
Rakesh Gupta '09	Wood Science & Technology
Robin Rose '09	Forest Engineering
Yanyun Zhao '09	Food Science and Technology
Luiz Bermudez '10	Veterinary Medicine
Roger Graham '10	Accountancy
Carlos Jensen '10	Electrical Engineering and Computer Science
Arup Indra '10	Pharmacy
Karen Higgins '11	Education
Tony Lachenbruch '11	Public Health
Flo Leibowitz '11	Philosophy
Vince Remcho '11	Chemistry
Andy Ungerer '11	College of Oceanic and Atmospheric Sciences

Ex-Officio: Research Office – John Cassady, Rich Holdren
Executive Committee Liaison: Stan Gregory
Research Office Staff Support: Ms. Debbie Delmore

The Research Council is a standing committee of the OSU Faculty Senate. The main function of the council is to evaluate proposals submitted by the OSU faculty to the Research Equipment Reserve Fund (RERF), General Research Fund (GRF), as well as pre-proposals or letters of intent for limited submission funding opportunities, most commonly in response to calls by NSF. The Research Council also reviews proposals on Centers, Institutes, and Programs (CIP), and makes recommendations to the VP for Research. A summary of the activities of the Research Council for academic year 2008-09 is given below:

Proposal Review

This past academic year, the Research Council evaluated 81 GRF and RERF proposals.

The GRF program was evaluated in two panels (November 2008 and March 2009). RERF proposals were also reviewed in two panels (January 2009 and April 2009). A total of 35 proposals with a total budget of \$747,173 were recommended for funding.

There were four NSF limited submission sets of proposals that needed to be reviewed this academic year. The Research Council evaluated 16 NSF Major Research Initiative (MRI) pre-proposals (6 in November and 10 in June) and recommended the top three from each set (one in development category and two in acquisition category) for advancement to the full proposal stage. The Council evaluated four NSF Academic Research Infrastructure (ARI) letters of intent in May and recommended the top one for advancement to the full proposal stage. We also evaluated eight letters of intent for the NSF PIRE program to help select the three that would advance to full NSF proposal stage.

In summary, the Research Council deliberated on a total of 109 proposals and letters of intent during the 2008-09 academic year.

Review of Centers, Institutes, and Programs (CIPs): The Research Council reviewed the revised Category I CIP proposal from the Rural Institute during the 2008-09 academic year. The Council approved the proposal with some concerns that were sent to the VP for Research.

Other Issues

- Last year, at the request of the Provost, the research council proposed two new research awards, the Promising Scholar Award, and the OSU Impact Award for Outstanding Scholarship. The Research Council worked with the Awards Committee to help implement these awards for the first time this year.
- The Council debated adding lower and upper limit guidance for RERF proposal amounts. At the lower end, small proposals are not worth the resources spent in reviewing them and should be handled at the Department or College level. At the upper end, large proposals consume a very large share of the total RERF budget. The Research Council recommended that the lower amount in the guidelines be set at \$8,000 and that no amount would be in the guidelines for the larger amount. Wording in the RERF announcement should reflect the fact that "The larger the amount of the request, the more the proposal should demonstrate multi-investigator, multi-college impact and will be reviewed with more scrutiny.'

Prepared by Alan Herlihy, Chair