

## Meeting Minutes

### Joint Associate Deans for Research & Research Council

---

Friday, June 05, 2015, 11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

LLB 3281 (Tiberti Conference Room)

In Attendance: Bo Bernhard, Gary Cerefice, John Mercer, Greg Borchard, Anjala Krishen, Erin Hannon, Sajjad Ahmad, Ernesto Abel-Santos, Monica Lounsbery, Martin Schiller, Connie Mobley, Shannon Smith, Helga Watkins, Kendall Hartley, Andrew Hanson, Seyhmus Baloglu, Jennifer Keene, Annette Day, Jillian Inouye, Javiar Rodriguez, Sharon Young, Sue DiBella, Robin Toles, Tom Piechota, Stan Smith, David Paul, Zach Miles, Nancy Rapoport, and Jill Zimbelman

1. General Announcements/Updates – Tom Piechota
  - CoRE Update – Jennifer Keene/Bo Bernhard
  - CoRE is in a holding pattern during the transition of provosts
2. Survey of Undergraduate Research – Sharon Young
  - Summer goals: (1) develop and launch the website by the end of the summer, (2) identify grant opportunities to support undergraduate research and scholarship, and (3) to gather data on campus about undergraduate research and scholarly activities.
  - Surveys are being drafted to collect information about undergraduate research and scholarship: OURS is developing surveys aimed at different populations on campus, starting with a survey for Deans and department chairs to identify what undergraduates are involved in research in their units and how these activities are tracked, and to identify ways that OURS can provide services to support academic units and their undergraduates. OURS is also collecting information on campus programs that work with undergraduate students and will build a survey for these units to collect data on campus-wide support for undergraduate research. Using these data, OURS will develop a faculty questionnaire to collect information on the range of undergraduate student research.
  - Three recommendations were offered:
    - The OURS Office should review the metrics on undergraduate research in the Top Tier Plan and build questions into their surveys to capture this data.
    - Data on under-represented groups should be gathered on UG students involved in research
    - Questions about faculty involvement in UG research should be built into the faculty annual reports collected through Digital Measures (follow up with Wonda Riner).
  - Please provide any additional feedback on the draft survey when it becomes available and pay special attention to metrics for analysis of progress toward Top Tier goals.
3. F&A Space Survey Training – David Paul
  - Space representatives for each unit identified as having substantial sponsored grant and contract activity were required to attend a training session on June 1 or 2.
  - There was great attendance, and OSP appreciates the group's support and promotion of it.
  - Please make sure the actual space survey for each department is given similar emphasis; it should be completed accurately and on time. We could be audited on the responses.
4. Core Facilities Survey – Stan Smith

- Please help encourage your core facility directors to complete the core facilities survey, which asks for a various data, such as who uses the facility, if there are charges for services, if the facility has a business plan, etc.

#### 5. Top Tier Initiatives – Nancy Rapoport

Nancy asked attendees to review the final Top Tier document handouts and then requested their feedback. A variety of suggestions were offered, including the following:

- Strategies should be tied to resources, and responsibilities should be assigned to strategies with milestones. This type of accountability should be included in Top Tier planning documentation.
- Change policy on faculty workloads, possibly with dual tracks, and empower the colleges to guide. Need to associate workload with space allocation, reserving some space for recruiting new faculty. The workload change has to happen at the college level but they need guidelines on what needs to be addressed. Every college is different; for instance, some would require a clinical service track; some might need blends. Some colleges are reluctant to pigeonhole faculty members, as some faculty may want to move between tracks.
- Need to focus on specific research areas, staged for investment.
- Increase responsiveness, both to internal and external inquiries. Greater community engagement by faculty would improve our reputation.
- Need to rebrand UNLV with a new marketing campaign.
- Increase support for GAs, including increases in stipend amounts. We need to make UNLV a top choice for the best GAs, and the way to do this is to increase stipends.
- Tuition for GAs on grants can end up costing as much as getting a post-doc.
- Need business support in the colleges to help with the day-to-day administration of grants.
- Increase the number of grants we're applying for—spend so much time doing the reporting that it takes away from being able to go after the next grant; we need more post-grant help.
- Need to align budgeting priorities with the Top Tier planning; align the incentives.
- Embed more support staff into the units for help faculty with research support, and university and federal requirements.
- Need better reporting for faculty accomplishments for merit purposes.
- Need better understanding of why people are leaving and if there are disparities in salary or rank that might be contributing factors.
- Move our core shared equipment to a user-pay model with the university buying the equipment/facilities and include equipment and facilities in the F&A rate negotiations; this is a “core lab model.” But we must evaluate whether there is a large enough user base for this to work.
- For units that don't have core facilities, the university lacks guidelines for replacing and maintaining equipment used for research (e.g., computers). Create those guidelines. Be mindful that some types of research/scholarship don't need labs at all.

- At other research universities, there are individuals who are hired to do research specifically, which enables faculty to do research/teaching/service. These are essentially nonfaculty research staff, which are a Carnegie variable that we should seek to increase.
- As we hire more FIRs, there should be a process in place on how to evaluate them for promotion.
- The Honors College encourages students to be engaged in research but faculty in some departments do not have openings in their labs for undergrads.
- What's the best mechanism of keeping faculty informed (email; campaign on importance of research?) and how to connect with students.
- There should be checks on whether faculty are research-productive in order to keep their lab space.
- We need to increase our high-quality research space significantly in order to increase research capacity. The President/Provost/VPR should be planning now for much more research space, and research space should be a metric that is tracked.

6. Volunteer for Spotlight on Research (Associate Deans for Research)

- August 21 – Volunteer?
- September 18 – Jennifer Keene
- October/November – Ramona Denby-Brinson

**Upcoming Meetings & Events**

June 11& 12 – Board of Regents Meeting, Truckee Meadows Community College (TMCC)

July 03 – Substitute Holiday (4<sup>th</sup> of July) – Campus Closed

**Next Associate Deans for Research Meeting:**

Friday, August 21, 2015, 9:00-10:30 a.m., SEB 2251

**Next Research Council Meeting:**

Fall 2015 – TBD