Established Programs to Stimulate Competitive Research (EPSCoR)

1996

Minutes of UNO Fellowship & Scholarship Review Committee Meeting

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In Attendance: Brent Bowen, UNO, Director (not reviewing); Michaela Schaaf, UNO, Coordinator (not reviewing); Hank Lehrer, UNO, Aviation; Otto Bauer, UNO, Communication; Neal Grandgenett, UNO, TED; Jeff Peake, UNO, Geography-Geology; Joel Severinghaus, Metro Community College; Mike Hencheck, Chadron State College; Denise Smart, UNO, Assoc. Dean of Business; Gebre Tesfagiorgis, UNL Provost Office (not reviewing)

Applications were distributed and the scoring process was described. Each application received three completed reviews. The total score was then computed and applications were ranked in based on the total score. Brent Bowen abstained from voting on the entire undergraduate process. The committee agreed that in the event of a tie, the decision will be made by a higher level authority. Lincoln engineering student applications were deferred to the UNL competition.

Michaela Schaaf presented the underrepresented scholarship procedures for approval by the committee. The scholarship was advertised to all high school liaisons as a new scholarship which all students are eligible for, but preference will be given to underrepresented minorities. A summer research internship will be provided to a student who has typically completed their junior year. Upon successful completion of the internship and satisfactory academic performance, a four-year tuition and fees scholarship will be awarded to UNO for the aviation or space related field. The committee approved the process. (UNO's Aviation Institute will contribute an out-of-state tuition waiver each year when applicable. Approved Dec. 16, 1996)

The committee approved a new policy under which research scholars will not accumulate more than two weeks of time owed to a project. This will ensure that students do not have too large a load at the end of the semester. If no research work is available, the award will be reallocated.

The committee approved the following travel grants as awarded. Fred Hansen, Graduate Student, awarded to attend the FAA Explosives Detection Technology and Aviation Security Technology Convention from Year 5 funds. Becky Lutte, Aviation Institute, awarded to attend the Global Aviation Safety and Security Conference from year 5 funds. Peter Suzuki, Urban Studies, awarded to attend the Transportation Research Board Meeting from year 5 funds. Willa Bruce, Public Administration, awarded to attend the Society for Practical and Professional Ethics Annual Conference and to present her Space Grant research paper from year 6 funds.

The following students were awarded as a result of the review committee’s ranking. Further details of the committee’s ranking are available from the Nebraska Space Grant and EPSCoR Office if necessary. (These are not in any specific order.)

Under represented Research: Darnetta Sanders (H.S. Senior) and Jacquelyn Jones (H.S. Junior)
Undergraduate Research: John Carrico, Shadric Thomas, Joe Bell and Lyle Jones
Undergraduate Course Work: Ben McPeck, Mary Schaffart
Undergraduate Flight: Antonia Krajicek
Graduate Research: Becky Lutte, Fred Hansen, Amanda Talmadge, Duane Boyle, Scott Vlasek, Alicia Martin and Aimee Freeman, Tim Gleason, Jr.
Graduate Course Work: John Papazafiropoulos, June Evans, Mike Turner, Ron Bojanski, Steve Morrissette
In Attendance: Brent Bowen, Nebraska Space Grant & EPSCoR, Director; Michaela Schaaf, Nebraska Space Grant & EPSCoR, Coordinator (not voting); Joel Severinghaus, Metro Community College, Campus Coordinator; George Coleman, Nebraska Academy of Sciences, President; Denise Smart, UNO Business, Assoc. Dean; Otto Bauer, UNO, Communication; Kim Stevens, NE Dept. of Aeronautics, Director; Larry Carstenson, UNK, Campus Coordinator; Jeff Peake, UNO, Geography-Geology; Don Rundquist, UN-L, CALMIT; Gebre Tesfagiorgis, UN-L, Office of the Provost; Mike Hencheck, Chadron State College, Campus Coordinator

Each person received a copy of the research proposals and education proposals through the mail or in person. A late research proposal was also distributed to all. Brent Bowen explained how the call for proposals was disseminated and that the proposals received were being considered for the Space Grant and the EPSCoR seed programs. The committee’s role is to review them, provide feedback, and rank order them. The committee was also given the option to recommend some proposals not receive any consideration of funds. The committee approved the process to review the proposals. Those that submitted a proposal were not allowed to vote on their proposal. If the rankings resulted in a tie, only one vote per institution would be considered. The board later approved these procedures at the lunch meeting.

Michaela Schaaf presented a proposal from StarDate for $3,500 to underwrite the costs of the program airing throughout the state. Some committee members were already familiar with the program and recommended that it would be a quality program to be associated with. It was the consensus of the group to fund the program contingent upon both an Omaha and Lincoln station being added.

The four education outreach proposals were discussed and subsequently funded based on the committee’s input and ranking. The education proposals which received some funding include ACE Academy, shuttle simulation laboratory, the ESUs, and the Nebraska School for the Deaf.

The research proposals were then discussed and ranked. Some of the proposals were rejected, some received funding, and some were deferred to other outlets for funding based upon the committee’s input and ranking. Those receiving at least partial funding include: Gary Marshall, Lance Perez, Jackie Luedtke, Jack Kasher & Dan Wilkins, Azad, George Gogos, Mike Hencheck & Lois Veath, Neal Grandgenett, and Hank Lehrer. The Director was given authority to determine budgetary merit and distribution of remaining funds.

Further details on these awards are available from the NASA Nebraska Space Grant & EPSCoR Office if necessary. All files of the NASA Nebraska Space Grant & EPSCoR Office are open for review.

Enhancements were suggested for the Call for Proposals for next year. Applicants must identify other grant opportunities they will pursue, how the award will assist in research infrastructure development for the state, and they also must indicate current funded research support they are receiving.
Dr. Neal Grandgenett, UNO College of Education, presented the Space Shuttle Simulation Lab concept to the Advisory Board.

After introductions, Brent Bowen provided an overview of the NASA Space Grant & EPSCoR Programs. The role of the Advisory Board in the planning and evaluation of the programs was also discussed and defined.

The Executive Management Team was also introduced and each member presented their role in the program as spelled out in the proposal. Brent Bowen's role includes Management Structure and Coordination with Other State Capability Building Programs sections of the proposal. Sara Woods' role includes the Quality Assurance and Program Evaluation, and Goals and Objectives sections of the proposal. Michaela Schaaf's role includes the Funds Distribution & Financial Management Systems and Controls sections of the proposal. Hank Lehrer's role includes the Student Programs/Outreach with underrepresented emphasis, Research Infrastructure Development, and Technology Transfer sections of the proposal. Royce Ballinger is the state appointed head of the EPSCoR programs and will monitor compliance with grant guidelines.

Ned Ianno and Ram Narayanan presented a summary of each of their research clusters for year one. Year one clusters were selected by the State EPSCoR committee in the summer of 1995. The process to add clusters was also discussed. The Board approved the first two clusters to have a diminishing role as others are added over time. Some concern was expressed that year one clusters may not be able to maintain the level of research needed to pursue other grant funding. In meeting the expected outcomes of the research, the clusters will either pursue other sources of funding, or not maintain the level of outcomes necessary to maintain the cluster role with the EPSCoR grant. Resulting consensus was that the impact of diminishing funding will be carefully considered, but new cluster opportunities are necessary.

It was the consensus of the board that all procedural rules which apply to Space Grant will also apply to NASA EPSCoR. Additionally, the Conflict Resolution Policy was approved and is available for review from the NASA Nebraska Space Grant & EPSCoR Office. The board also approved the procedures of the Review Committee from the morning meeting.

Affiliate certificates were distributed to the Nebraska Department of Aeronautics and Chadron State College.
In Attendance: Brent Bowen, Nebraska Space Grant & EPSCoR, Director; Michaela Schaaf, Nebraska Space Grant & EPSCoR, Coordinator; Hank Lehrer, UNO, Aviation; Jeff Peake, UNO, Geography-Geology; Ram Narayanan, UNL, Electrical Engineering; N.J. Ianno, UNL, Electrical Engineering; Sara Woods, CPACS, UNO; John Schalles, Creighton

The changes for the response to NASA were due at this meeting. Steve Reichenbach had submitted the changes from his cluster over e-mail on December 5, 1996. Dr. Ianno was not sure if Dr. Woollam had received the evaluations or not. Michaela Schaaf will re-send these to Dr. Ianno and he stated that he would be the point of contact for the cluster in the future. The response is due before the semester break.

The criteria for the quarterly reports will be quantitative in nature. The clusters will submit a progress report in January. This report will be a one page synopsis of progress to date, including also quantitative numbers as illustrated on the attached document. NASA has not indicated specifically what will be required in the annual report to date.

The two-year renewal will probably be due in October 1998.