

**CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, NORTHRIDGE
RESEARCH AND GRANTS COMMITTEE**

MINUTES OF MEETING: September 9, 2022 APPROVED BY COMMITTEE: October 14, 2022
Sub. to Exec. Comm. October 14, 2022 Approved by Exec. Comm. _____
Sub. to Acad. Senate _____ Approved by Acad. Senate _____
POLICY ITEMS: _____

Members Present:

Karin Crowhurst (Chair), Kyle Dewey, Minsung Kwon, Magdy Rizk, Christoph Schaal, Andrew Weiss, Sung Wook Yoon

Members Absent:

Pete Goldschmidt

Staff:

Naty Palos (Recording Secretary), Christopher Sanford (Executive Secretary)

Guest:

Sherrie Hixon, Mitz Alejandria, Daniel Castellon

I) Call to order

- Meeting called to order by Karin Crowhurst at 10:00 am

II) Approval of September 9, 2022, Meeting Minutes

- Minutes unanimously approved

III) Announcements

- **Welcome to current and new committee members**

Crowhurst welcomed existing and new members of the committee and asked members to introduce themselves.

Crowhurst mentioned we are still waiting for a couple of representatives to be assigned to the committee.

IV) Ongoing Business

- **Ideas on utilizing the quasi-endowment funds that have accumulated**

Crowhurst provided a quick update and mentioned that the R&G committee has a quasi-endowment that provides funds yearly for the committee to use to support Research and Grants related activities. There had been a brief discussion at the May committee meeting about the use of the funds; very little of the money had been used over the past several years, and Crowhurst therefore wanted the committee to continue with a serious discussion on how to spend down the accumulated funds this year. In previous years it was sometimes used to supplement RSCA awards (i.e. support a few additional awards beyond the funding cutoff from the Chancellor's Office). Some additional suggestions were to create an open access fund to help cover article processing charges. The committee was generally in favor of this idea; Crowhurst also reminded everyone that the university has a contract with Elsevier to assist with publishing papers and is free to faculty – it would be useful if committee members made sure their colleagues were aware. Also discussed was support for graduate students in research, a mini grant program similar to one of the programs that took place over the past couple of years, and funding for conference travel. The committee

agreed that they like the option of the mini grant programs and also support for graduate students. Discussion will continue.

V) ***New Business***

- **Review expectations of committee members**

Crowhurst reviewed the Research and Grants Committee Resolution for Minimal Expectations of Members for AY 2022-2023 with the committee. Crowhurst asked the committee if they had any questions regarding the resolution. The committee agreed and approved the expectations/resolutions presented by Crowhurst for the AY 2022-2023.

- **Discussion of PIVOT-RP and whether it could be effectively used to facilitate collaboration between faculty at CSUN (and elsewhere) – Sherrie Hixon – time certain 10:30am**

Sherrie Hixon, Director of Strategic Research Initiatives of Research and Sponsored Programs, presented to the committee the PIVOT-RP software, a new subscription that was secured in the Spring of this year and is a combination of a grant funding and profile database which also has resources for conferences and awarded grants. She shared with the committee how to navigate the software and shared some resources on the [RSP website](#). She mentioned there are a couple of helpful video tutorials to assist with setting up and populating your profile, conducting a general search for funding opportunities, and creating and sharing saved searches with keywords and filters. Hixon mentioned she would be happy to schedule a demonstration of PIVOT-RP at department meetings, to small groups or individuals. Interested parties can send her an email, sherrie.hixon@csun.edu or to research@csun.edu to schedule the demonstration.

- **Safety compliance in laboratories and other venues that involve students – Mitz Alejandria (new RSP compliance officer) – time certain 11:00 am**

Mitz Alejandria, Research Compliance Specialist of Research and Sponsored Programs and Daniel Castellon, Director of Environmental Health and Safety, came to discuss safety in laboratories and other venues on campus that involve students. Castellon briefly mentioned an incident that happened on campus and wanted to review safety protocols and educate and remind PIs of their responsibilities in a laboratory setting and any recommended procedures to prevent any future laboratory accidents from occurring on campus. Alejandria mentioned that they intend to roll out the training course on November 1st and assign it to PIs through CSU Learn. The PI will have 30 days to complete the training course which will take approximately 20 minutes to complete. These initiatives have been established as a result of an Executive Order that was released by the system and CAL OSHA regulations. The purpose of the executive order is to establish policies that enhance the safety of faculty, students, staff and volunteers within the CSU. The goal of the training is to strive for safety on campus and in labs. They asked if any members on the committee would volunteer to take the training to provide feedback on the course.

- **Brief introduction and summary of new initiatives by RSP – Chris Sandford**

Christopher Sanford mentioned that 2021 was a record-breaking year for research. He provided the committee with a document of the dashboard and reviewed how research has changed. He reviewed the numbers referencing the proposals submitted and awarded. We have exceeded \$36.5 million in awards and over \$172 million in proposal requests. He wanted to give credit to all PIs and their hard work in achieving this landmark year. Sanford also mentioned RSP is developing an Office of Undergraduate Research and will be searching for a Director to lead and start the office and encourages faculty to be members of the search committee for the search. He asked if you know of anyone that

would be interested in the position or serve on the search committee, please let Sanford know. He hopes to advertise the position this fall. This is part of the GI2025 initiative and aligns with President Beck's road map.

- **Discussion about future R&G committee meetings**

Crowhurst asked the committee if they would like the meetings to take place in-person or virtually by zoom. The committee voted and agreed to have the meetings virtually.

Crowhurst mentioned that she would like to have the April RSCA ranking meeting held in person. The committee agreed and will have the RSCA meeting in-person.

VI) *Adjournment*

- Meeting adjourned at 12:00 p.m.