

ARD Advisory Council Meeting Minutes

October 26, 2021 | 1:30 PM | AGH 311 & Zoom

In Attendance: John Gamon, Dipti Dev, Konstantinos Giannakas, Richard Wilson, Jim MacDonald, Julie Peterson, Patricio Grassini, Gary Brewer, Archie Clutter, Tala Awada, Hector Santiago, Lauren Kruger

Meeting opened at 1:32 PM

Archie welcomed new members and everyone to the meeting.

ARD Priorities for the New Year

- Strategic operational priorities were discussed at the Annual Meeting this year.
- We've done good work to think about diversity, equity, and inclusion and there is a placeholder in the bylaws to have an individual be a champion to focus and execute this strategy on the ARD Council.
- Address graduate student development and innovation in graduate programs as well as development along career paths, specifically for mid-career faculty.
 - There was discussion of our role in the development of graduate students and if we should coordinate with Tom Burkey and Jocelyn Gordan in CASNR to discuss where we want to put our efforts moving forward.
- There was discussion about conducting a survey at the previous meeting to learn about how IANR and units responded to the pandemic, but the goals and targets were not complete at that point.
- Actions Items:
 - Pick up the discussion about having a diversity, equity, and inclusion representative on the council.
 - Put a list of action items together that the committee wants to address.
 - Focus on the communication effort and consider bringing back the newsletter (executive summary of the council meeting) to distribute to faculty.

Chair and Chair Elect Discussion

- Hector shared the bylaws with the council, specifically related to electing a chair.
 - Patricio Grassini nominated Gary Brewer for the chair position and Gary accepted. John Gamon seconded the nomination. The council voted and all were in favor. Gary was officially elected as the new chair of the ARD Advisory Council.
- Nominations for the position of chair-elect were accepted following the election of Gary Brewer as Chair.
 - Jim MacDonald nominated Richard Wilson for Chair-elect position and Richard accepted. Gary Brewer seconded the nomination and the council voted. All were in favor of electing Richard Wilson as chair elect.

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Discussion

- Overall goal behind the DEI position is to have someone in the group who is focused on diversity, equity, and inclusion and how we can address concerns from the faculty.
 - There were debates at the last meeting for whether there should be a diversity champion that would work with us to address the concerns of the faculty or if every year we assign one person within the existing committee.
- The responsibilities of the rest of the committee are to inform the faculty of ARD the updates and discussions that are happening.
- Action Item:
 - Discuss whether the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion representative should be an added member or if it should be an existing ARD Advisory Committee member and come up with a provisional plan.
 - Gary Brewer, Patricio Grassini, and John Gamon volunteered to create a document for discussion at the next meeting. Tala Awada agreed to help.

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Additional Agenda Items

Sub-Committee Assignments:

- The sub-committees evaluate several competitions including Graduate Fellows, Jr. Faculty, Foundation grants and graduate student travels.
 - Tala put each member on 1 or 2 sub-committees
 - Graduate fellowships – Patricio (chair), Dipti and Julie
 - Around May or June 2022
 - Jr. Faculty Excellence and Research award – Jim (chair), Gary and Rich
 - More urgent
 - Foundation Endowment program – everyone on the committee now, but will be reevaluated at the time of submissions
 - Travel – Dipti (chair), Jim, Konstantinos
 - Occurs every 3 or 4 months

Request for International Travel:

- There are extra steps you must take; start the process with a travel authorization, which must go through a committee to evaluate if it merits giving authorization. You'll hear back from Dave Long for approval.
 - Each country has different guidelines, and you will need to fill out several risk management forms. Make sure to not incur any expenses until everything is approved.

Hiring Freeze

- Freeze for staff was lifted and the current process will continue for the foreseeable future.

Per Diem Meal Reimbursement

- The Soybean Board has a different internal policy and does not accept UNL's per diem rate. Instead, they require the receipts as additional documentation. Since UNL does not require receipts, many throw them away and do not have anything to submit to this board and it causes of friction between accounting and those who have traveled.
- Action Item:
 - Hector is working with the Soybean Board and David Doty to come up with a solution.

Updates from the Deans

Archie

- We would like to set up a time at The Mill before the end of the year for an end of the year meeting and enjoy fellowship in an informal setting.
- We typically host a luncheon with pizza to celebrate our outgoing members and chairs and we're hoping to schedule by the beginning of next year.
- Action Item:
 - Lauren will find a time after Thanksgiving break and before winter break for informal meeting at The Mill.
 - Lauren will schedule a meeting to celebrate our outgoing members and chairs.

Tala

- All information related to the Grand challenges can be found on ORED's website – there is a lunch & learn on November 1 and RFP Town Hall Meeting on November 2.
- Collaboration Retreat is on Thursday, October 28 at NIC Conference Center.
- Action Item:
 - Tala will ask Nathan if the Grand Challenge events are recorded.

Meeting adjourned at 2:31 PM

Minutes respectfully submitted by Lauren Kruger