

ARD Advisory Council Meeting Minutes

May 23, 2022 | 2:00 PM | AGH 311; Zoom

In Attendance: Dinos Giannakas, Rich Wilson, James MacDonald, Gary Brewer, Dipti Dev, Julie Peterson, Archie Clutter, Tala Awada, Lauren Kruger

Meeting opened at 2:02 PM

Approval of October 28, 2022, minutes – Dinos moved to approve the minutes, Rich seconded. The minutes were approved without changes.

Updates from the Deans

- Archie Clutter:
 - ARD Dean Search has commenced and is on schedule to start zoom interviews first part of June.
 - We have started to discuss the fall ARD Annual Meeting and looking at October but hasn't been confirmed. We have ideas for content, but we are open to session topic ideas.
 - Grand challenges have passed another milestone. We've had larger efforts around USDA opportunities that have come about.
- Tala Awada:
 - Good month for grant submission. Two large climate smart commodity grant submission. Collectively we had over \$100 million grant submission last month.
 - Graduate Fellowships application deadline is May 27th. Patricio, Dipti, and Julie are on the sub-committee. Amy Kunce will create a spreadsheet for evaluation. If there is a conflict of interest, please note it on the spreadsheet and move to the next application.
 - **Action Item:** A meeting should be set up to discuss the consensus of the applications for graduate fellowships.

Questions for Deans

- DEI in the Dean Search
 - Each candidate is required to include a DEI statement in vision for the position. There is an individual on each SAC that has a responsibility to ensure that DEI is carried out in the search.
 - There are specific review criteria to take into account when on the SAC. Rich Bischoff talks to the committee about DEI prior to the search process.
- Grand Challenges
 - 68% that submitted a letter of intent submitted a proposal. The catalyst proposals were sent to a private company for thorough review. Planning grants will be reviewed internally – there will be 3 panels.
 - We will hear by the end of June, so that funding is available on July 1.
 - Next round deadlines:
 - Letter of intent due end of February; Proposal due end of April.
 - For more information, visit <https://research.unl.edu/grandchallenges/>.

Agenda Items

- DEI Position Update
 - Council members met with Rich Bischoff in December. There was discussion about having a committee member join the IANR DEI committee meetings maybe once or twice a year.
 - Taking the approach of having a shared engagement of everyone on the council. There may be one or two members that focus on DEI, but it is believed that everyone should contribute to this effort. Everyone has diverse views that would benefit and contribute to the group, but the chair or another member will take the lead.

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- Ask IANR DEI committee to join our meeting and discuss their priorities, challenges, and opportunities about twice a year, so that we can address the issues along with them.
 - IANR DEI website: <https://ianr.unl.edu/diversity-and-inclusion-ianr/advisory-group>
- A suggestion was made to have IANR update the faculty and highlight the efforts that have been done at the annual meeting. This would be helpful to share with candidates that interview at UNL.
- NIFA has additional money available for grants with the integration of DEI. You can potentially ask for 100,000-200,000 more if the DEI component is incorporated.

Additional Items

- Reengagement Post-COVID
 - How do we reengage students and faculty post-covid?
 - Do mid-career faculty have the mentoring they need?
 - The events and mentoring decrease once an individual gets to the associate level.
 - The Research Leaders Program is a popular program and very beneficial to associate professors. It would be nice if this can be expanded.
- It would be interesting to learn more about the Research Leaders Program and be able to create curriculum that can be incorporated into each department.
 - <https://research.unl.edu/researchleaders/>
 - <https://research.unl.edu/researchleaders/2022-2023-schedule/>
 - There are several topics such as time management, financial management, etc. that are discussed in the program. Potential to address DEI in these opportunities.
 - Monthly webinars were discussed to address research positions going from associate professor to full professor.
- Challenges with Associate professor becoming a full professor.
 - The international piece can be challenging when on your own without guidance, mentoring, connections, and opportunities.
 - The question may be - how can we help facilitate and clarify what the P&T qualifications are so that the committee knows what they're looking for.
 - Rich Bischoff is currently working on this.
- Different outlook of tenure on east campus versus city campus.
 - The process seems that it is more stressful than it should be.
 - Good culture on east campus
- Committee meetings outside of the regularly scheduled meetings with the Deans to work on specific issues would help to make progress.
 - Please let the Deans know how they can help.

Election of Chair/Chair-Elect

- Rich was nominated and elected for the role of chair for the 2022-2023 academic year at the October business meeting. Jim nominated Dipti Dev for the position of chair elect. Dinos seconded. All were in favor. Dipti was elected the chair-elect for the 2022-2023 academic year.

Meeting adjourned at 3:06 PM.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Lauren Kruger

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