

Research Advisory Board
December 02, 2009
Leonard Lief Library, Room 213
3:00 PM

Minutes

In attendance: Timothy Alborn, Eugene Chudnovsky, Stephanie Endy, Dominic Esposito, Michael Ferraro, Mira Gora, Marzie Jafari, Dina Legall, Herminio Martinez, Joseph Middleton, Anne Rothstein, Katherine St. John, Robert Troy, Derek Wheeler, Marcie Wolfe.

- **Approval of Minutes**

The Board approved the minutes.

- **Welcome to the Board: Dean Jarroll, Natural and Social Sciences**

Dean Jarroll was unable to attend due to a scheduling conflict.

- **Open Discussion with Dean Alborn, Arts & Humanities**

Dean Alborn opened the discussion stating that reassigned time for faculty in the arts is the most important thing they need when conducting research. They can use this time to do research away from Lehman. Library fellowships, for example, require a person to be on site full-time. He would like the Board to review how research in the humanities is supported at Lehman. He stated that there are many small grants available and faculty members in his Division have to get many awards and combine them for reassigned time. He further stated that, after achieving tenure, it is difficult for faculty members to adjust to a full time load and, in order to retain tenured faculty members, Lehman has to encourage grant applications by offering workshops starting at the junior level.

Professor Chudnovsky stated that Harvard takes recoveries derived from science grants and gives it to the humanities and asked if the Performing Arts Center could provide some funding for faculty support. However, Stephanie Endy responded stating that the PAC is a separate 501c3 organization and they receive their own grants and have their own budget. Dean Alborn stated that he would like to see a change in the PSC-CUNY grant program that allows tenured and junior faculty the same chance of receiving funding.

Michael Ferraro asked if the Board could contact private foundations to solicit funding opportunities. Stephanie replied that foundation grants are extremely competitive and specific to the mission of the organization and asked how the Board and ORSP can help faculty in the Arts & Humanities Division get grants. The Dean would like to see the workshops continue. Also, he would like to work in conjunction with the ORSP to connect directly with faculty members and provide mentoring because many departments do not mentor their faculty. Dean Alborn had to leave but was invited to the next meeting to continue the discussion.

- **How to promote sponsored programs with corporate and foundation sponsors**

Professor Martinez began the discussion stating that the governmental grant application process is impersonal, but receiving corporate funding is a personal process. Receiving private funding is time consuming because people at a foundation are reluctant to support a

project unless they feel there is a high chance for success. Foundations should be presented with successful examples of programs at Lehman. He described an experience where he met with people from a foundation and sent them information over a four year period. The foundation then gave a \$100,000 four year award and even though \$25,000 per year is not as large as some of the Federal awards he received, the Bronx Institute and Lehman College now has a relationship with that foundation. An institutional commitment is required to receive private funding because foundation representatives have to be invited to campus and Lehman has to provide support for these grants even though overhead is not usually permitted.

Marcie Wolfe raised a concern about different people at Lehman and CUNY Central applying for the same private grant and cautioned against doing so. Stephanie always checks with Institutional Advancement prior to submitting a private grant application to avoid this problem and further discussions by the Board can lead to a dynamic research environment. Professor Chudnovsky suggested that the creation of patented material would be a useful way to encourage corporate sponsorship and that Harvard, Princeton and Yale encourage faculty to patent materials and Lehman should be able to produce patents and patenting materials should be encouraged by the College.

Professor Martinez concluded by stating that communications with corporations should be precise and the message should be conveyed that Lehman can produce something to the sponsor rather than simply fulfill a need of the College.

- **Report back from Michael Ferraro**

Michael Ferraro stated that he viewed Gillian Small's website and it has research information in a blog format. He would like to see a similar website for research at Lehman.

- **Spring Semester RAB dates**

The Board will meet on 2/10, 2/24, 3/10, 3/24 and 4/14.

- **Open discussion: Promoting the Research Enterprise**

Professor St. John informed the Board that the LSAMP program is trying to distribute funds to all of the CUNY campuses. The program director will be coming to Lehman on 12/9 and he is willing to meet with faculty and accept LSAMP students and almost all students that have a faculty mentor receive funding. Students receive a stipend during the summer and the school year. The program is open to graduate and undergraduate students, but the faculty members have to match the funds for graduate students. In return, they have to go to workshops, write reports and present a poster at a conference. \$250 in supply money is also given to the faculty mentor through the program.

The Provost is currently reviewing the Board's proposal regarding released time.

- **Adjourn**

The next meeting will be 2/10.