

Research Advisory Board
October 07, 2009
Shuster Hall 336
3:00 PM

Minutes

In attendance: Eugene Chudnovsky - Chair, Dominic Esposito, Michael Ferraro, Marzie Jafari, Alan Kluger, Herminio Martinez, Joseph Middleton, Janet Munch, Joseph Rachlin, Rene Rotolo, Robert Troy, Derek Wheeler, Marcie Wolfe.

- **Approval of Minutes** – The minutes were conditionally approved pending the correction of the list of CUNY Science Scholars.

- **Continuation of discussion on Release/Reassigned Time**

Professor Chudnovsky suggested addressing this topic after graduate student support and the board approved. Mr. Esposito made a suggestion to follow the agenda as written. The Board agreed to proceed with the Chairman's request.

- **Continuation of Graduate Student Support discussion**

Professor Chudnovsky reminded to the Board that Lehman College made a commitment to support a certain number of Ph.D. students in sciences. The six CUNY Science Scholars that started their Ph.D. research at Lehman in September 2009 were chosen by their advisors under the assumption that half of the support would come from the College. This support has been promised by the administration and it is expected but the payroll account has not been set up yet. Such an account is absolutely needed this year and maybe next year because of the commitment made to the students. Right now the students are receiving only half of their salaries.

Regardless of the current situation, the Board needs to develop guidelines for the support of science graduate students in the years to come. An e-mail from Dean Jarroll attached to the packet stated that support for graduate students should be raised from research grants. Professor Chudnovsky proposed a formula under which 50% of student's salary would come from teaching, 25% would come from the research grant of the advisor, and 25% would come from the college. If the sponsored program portion of support ends unexpectedly, then the College should honor the commitment to the student.

The discussion that followed focused on who should be supported and from what sources. Professor Kluger stated that he would want to see some support for psychology graduate students and that he would not want to see departmental overhead funds used for that purpose. Marcie Wolfe was concerned that the discussion was only addressing science students and stated that the centers and institutes did not receive any overhead funds. Their support for doctoral students is provided from direct sponsored programs funding. She proposed that a good starting point would be to find out how many doctoral students are on campus and see how they are receiving support. Additionally, she would like to explore the possibility of returning some recoveries from full non-research indirect cost rate programs to

the institutes provided that is consistent with CUNY policy. Michael Ferraro raised a concern that the policy was related strictly to Ph.D. students. He felt that all terminal degree students should be supported.

Members of the Board felt that a clear policy on graduate student support was needed. They would like this issue addressed by the College administration.

- **Continuation of discussion on Release/Reassigned Time**

Professor Chudnovsky presented his “Released Time Policy” proposal. The suggestion was made that the 21 hour teaching load for Lehman faculty members be considered a 21 hour work load and research should be included as part of the 21 hours. The departmental chair can then determine if a faculty member is research active and schedule the individual’s 21 hours accordingly. The Dean approves the workload and the document is transmitted to CUNY Central for final authorization.

The Board agreed that the Chair should first provide approval and then the Dean. Also, the Board agreed that this policy should be flexible based on departmental needs. The CUNY policy of having full-time faculty members teaching was also raised. Clearly the new policy would require new lines. Professor Rachlin suggested that some new full-time hires could be lecturers and instructors that are not research active so that there is a balance between research and non-research faculty. The Board motioned to accept Professor Chudnovsky’s proposal. Mr. Esposito raised the issue that the bulleted list in the handed out materials was not addressed by the Board. The Chairman stated that most of the issues included in the bulleted list were discussed. The actual written statements from the Board members should have been included in the packet. Another member stated that the bulleted list concerned “buyout” rather than released time. There were no objections to either statement.

The Board moved to accept Professor Chudnovsky’s proposal and present it to the College administration provided that language is included stating that the objectives may not be immediately fiscally feasible.

The points are as follows:

- *The 21 hour teaching load should be shifted to a 21 hour workload where a portion of the 21 hours is time for scholarly works. This may be requested from the Department Chair regardless of grant activity.*
- *The 21 hour workload schedule should first be approved by the Chair and then by the Dean.*

Regarding the issue of the released time from research grants, the Board agreed that

- *All released time anticipated from the grant should be included as a direct cost on a grant budget where permitted by the sponsor.*

- **Meeting Adjourned**

The meeting was adjourned. The Baruch “Reassigned Time Procedures for Grants Administered at the Research Foundation” policy will be addressed at one of the future meetings.