

ARKANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY  
FACULTY RESEARCH AWARD COMMITTEE MEETING  
November 15<sup>th</sup>, 2022

Attendees: Bill Hu (Chair) [BH], Tom Risch (*ex officio*) [TR], Morgan Speer (RTT) [MS], Ashley Pinkard (RTT) [AP], Vicent Moreno [VM], Ryan Kelly [RK], Ed Salo [ES], Amber Wooten [AW], GwanSeon Kim [GK], Drew Fleming (Acting(?) Secretary) [DF]

Proxy Attendee: Bruce Johnson [BJ] for Argelia Lorence (for Travis Marsico)  
I am now secretary

Meeting called to order at 11:04 AM

Update from TR on current funding levels: \$40,000 for Faculty Research Funds; \$1200 for Nathan Deutsch

Faculty Research Fund Reviews:

1. Hrishikesh Desai

- DF: Concerns about appropriateness of funding for travel to 2 conferences.
- TR confirms that it is within the committee's purview to give partial awards
- RK proposed that travel budgets be limited on future solicitations
- AP notes that new rules cannot be made today since they were not included in the RFP

DF: Motion to partially fund at \$8000 to account for travel to 1 conference

Seconded by ES

Motion carries (BH recused, TR as acting chair)

2. Lucy Barnhouse

- DF notes that this proposal is distinct from the applicant's Deutsch/Lane proposal

BH: Call for motion to fully fund

Motioned by DF

Seconded by VM

Motion carries (unanimous)

3. Susan Whiteland

BH: Motion to fully fund

Seconded by RK

Motion carries (unanimous)

4. Pankaj Nagpal

DF notes that the proposed budget exceeds proposal limit, and further included no budget for required fringes on salary. Recommends to reject with feedback provided.

RK notes that the budget also includes funding for 2 conferences.

AP: federal sponsor would send back without review for not following budget guidelines.

BH: Motion to send back unfunded and provide comments

Seconded by DF

Motion carries (unanimously)

DF recommends that travel and PI salary limitations be considered

TR: Would need to go through shared governance to update the RFP, but the committee has discretion for partial funding

MS notes that travel can include field work, so limitations may need to be specific to conference travel

Nathan Deutsch Awards:

DF asks for clarification about whether travel awards can be awarded to an applicant on leave from the university. TR confirms that they can, since the leave is in support of the university.

BH: Call for motion to fully fund Butcher and Zhou applications

Motioned by RK, seconded by DF

Motion carries (unanimous)

DF: Motion to consider Lucy Barnhouse's application for Eleanor Lane and fully fund

Seconded by RK

Motion carries (unanimously)

Compensated Leave Applications:

DF expresses concern over Hong Zhou's application because of vagueness of outcomes

TR notes that it could be reasonably classified under capacity-building

BJ: Applications materials seem sound and have support from department chair and dean

BH asks for clarification if we need to rank the applications

TR: Doesn't think we need to rank, unless provost asks for more, because committee's charge is to consider merit, not resource.

BH: Call for motion to approve all applications

Motioned by ES, seconded by RK

Motion carries (unanimous)

BH: Open discussion about limits to travel/salary

MS: Recommends that we discuss what we want, RTT will update language, and BH (as chair) will present to shared governance

DF: Quarter month salary seems reasonable

MS: It may make more sense to cap total faculty salary, in the case of multiple faculty

RK: Limits help standardize the process; would anything be codified in time for spring? Not likely, per TR

BJ: Collaboration is important, limiting salary de-emphasizes that

DF: The overall budget is typically not sufficient to support anything but token salary for a single PI, much less co-PIs. Faculty salaries are typically not budgeted for this reason – this is the first application in the last 3 years to include it. Setting a limit in the RFP gives applicants context into what the committee thinks is "reasonable"

TR notes that flexibility can be helpful

RK suggests limiting faculty salary to a certain percentage of PI salary.

BH: Calls for motion to adjourn

Motioned by RK, seconded by VM

Motion carries (unanimously)

Meeting Adjourned at 12:07 PM