Research Committee Meeting
February 27, 2013  1:00 PM
207 CETES

Minutes

Members present: Drs. Ann Nalley, Mary Dzindolet, Mohammad Tabatabai, Ali Soylu, Richard Longoria de Voltair, and P.K. Das (Chair). In the absence of Secretary, Dr. Wohlers, Chair took notes.

1. The meeting started on time at 1:00 p.m.

2. Approval of last meeting’s minutes
   The minutes of the October 26, 2012 meeting were distributed and read. The minutes were approved unanimously.

3. Preliminary discussion on submitted proposals
   After Chair gave a brief on the four research proposals under discussion, concerns were expressed by Drs. Nalley and Dzindolet if the research fund should or could be used for travel to meetings. Dr. Dzindolet observed that the travel money is usually allocated under a Department’s budget. Dr. Das commented that as the Committee Chair, he was aware of several ‘under-$500’ grants that had been approved this academic year for travel to meetings to present research. Dr. Nalley wondered if the list of grant awards for the year could be made available to the Committee. Chair agreed to bring these concerns to the notice of Dr. Wohlers and to request him to address them.

4. Deliberation/recommendation on four submitted proposals:
   (a) Dr. Terry Conley – Initial Characterization of Endolithic Microbial Communities in Surface Gypsum Deposits in Oklahoma ($1,313.00)
       The Committee praised the quality of the proposed research and unanimously recommended funding it. Dr. Nalley noted the absence of any explicit mention of involvement of students in the research. Drs. Dzindolet and Das noted the statement in the proposal about establishing “protocols for future investigations by undergraduate researchers of previously uncharacterized microbial populations”.

   (b) Dr. Tony Wohlers – Setting Sail into the Age of Digital Local Government ($4,702.00)
       Following some discussion on the merit of the proposal, the Committee unanimously recommended funding the proposal. In particular, the involvement of a student in the proposed work was commended.

   (c) Dr. William Carney – The Progressive Era and the Rhetoric of Billy Sunday ($801.33)
       The Committee’s deliberations on the appropriateness of allocation of research fund for travel to meetings were animated. Finally, it was concluded not to recommend the funding of this proposal, subject to clarification from Dr. Wohlers in this matter (see item 3).

Over→
(d) Dr. Yingqin Liu – Toward a Multi-competence Perspective: Loss and Gain - Exploring the Roles of First Language in a Foreign/Second Language Learning Classroom ($801.33)

As under item 4(d) above, the appropriateness of allocation of research fund for travel to meetings was generally questioned by the Committee. It was decided not to recommend the funding of this proposal, subject to clarification from Dr. Wohlers in this matter (see item 3).

5. New item(s), if any – none.

6. Date for next meeting – not decided.

7. Meeting adjourned – 1:45 p.m.