

IRA Committee Meeting Minutes
February 3, 2015; 8:00am
Bell Tower West Conference Room 1188

Members Present: Simone Aloisio, James Forrester, Vanessa Mendoza, Paul Murphy, Elizabeth Salgado, Sara Sanders, Michael Ullerick, Dan Wakelee

Staff Present: David Daniels

Meeting called to order at 8:05am

Approval of Agenda

Motion by S. Aloisio, second by P. Murphy; all in favor, agenda is approved.

Approval of Minutes from December 2, 2015

Motion by S. Aloisio, second by M. Ullerick; all in favor, minutes are approved.

Public Forum

D. Wakelee: don't yet have spring fees posted, will get in about a week and a half; also don't know fee payers in Fall, but if campus FTES are only going up by 115 students, then not a big change in revenue amount.

Note that as IRA grows and becomes more complex, really a strain on staff who manage this; always a three week lag between President's approval and getting accounting strings – there is a way to move away from this via a direct fund transfer to programs – this means that the program chairs can sign, instead of me signing everything; doesn't change programs that have lots of activities, leading to large work load; it's not sustainable for Dave to do all of this work, but also large work load for analysts; consider that when IRA gets to be a million dollar enterprise, we should think about how to reallocate accordingly, i.e. allocating entire budgets to programs;

Discussion: S.Aloisio: right now applications are grouped by faculty members, but what if we looked at grouping them by program; D. Wakelee: could be simple to do on a spreadsheet; P. Murphy: if you look at Performing Arts, has Arts Under the Stars, the Spring Production, the World Music events, S. Marsh's classes, etc., so there will be some programs asking for more money than others; D. Wakelee: would expect that requests from PerfArts would continue to be larger than say, Physics; S. Aloisio: if allocations go to programs instead, committee may not need to vote on proposals within it; D. Wakelee noted that this would require additional guidelines and/or new mechanisms;

S. Sanders informed committee of Columbia not being approved by the President; M. Ullerick asked why, answer was due to risk management issues and being on State Department's high risk list;

Back to accounting string delay, D. Wakelee recalled that Finance is at beginning and at end of process, causing the delay in accounting string delivery.

Expedited Review of Proposals

S. Sanders asks committee if we can consider an expedited review of a proposal, what are thoughts? S. Aloisio: neither a high level of student interest nor a professor emailing a lot are sound reasons to expedite a review; S. Sanders agrees that it may be more fair to open up invitations to join meeting for all other ranked Cat-III proposals instead of just this one; S. Aloisio doesn't think we should invite people to committee due to minimal information added and too much time taken – the committee didn't make a mistake in their previous ranking; P. Murphy agrees that we got the ranking correct the first time; S. Sanders we can take a look of how much extra money we have; D. Daniels will bring a firm number by next meeting;

S. Sanders reviewed question from G. Dilly – committee saw no objections with allowing funds to be spent in Fall 2015; We may also need to contact S. Anderson if funding is available to see if Cook Island trip would still be in the running (they are going anyway not as a UNIV 392 trip);

Meeting adjourned at 8:31am