PRESENTATIONS

The meeting began with Dr. Mark Redfern introducing Drs. Karen Schmidt and Cheryl Bodnar to give the following presentations:

- Karen Schmidt, PhD
  Research Facilitator, Regulatory Knowledge and Support Core
  Clinical and Translational Science Institute (CTSI)

  Presentation: *Update on CTSI Responsible Conduct of Research (RCR) Training*

  Highlights from presentation:
  - Training is an interactive format and consists of case-based discussions
  - RCR Training helps researchers move their research forward
  - RCR training is available to all members of the university committee, including graduate students, post docs, research coordinators

  **Action Item:** Send URC Committee information on CTSI’s E-blast system

- Cheryl Bodnar, PhD
  Grant Developer, Swanson School of Engineering

  Presentation: *Grant Writing/Developer Activities in the Swanson School of Engineering (SSOE)*

  Highlights from presentation:
  - Grants can be hard to acquire
  - Funding time is limited for faculty
  - What does Grants Developer do?
  - Funding opportunity identifier
  - Grant preparation
  - Additional resources: grant writing resources available
  - Grant workshops: NSF Career Workshops (five part workshop) and NIH R01 Workshop

  **Comment from Mark Redfern:** The NSF Career Workshop led to a huge increase in the quality of Career proposals that were submitted through SSOE

  Dr. Bodnar pointed out the Workshop Goals are:
  - Catalyst to getting proposal started
  - Means of PIs connecting with one another

**Discussion on the Grant Developer/Writer Position**

Comments from Mark Redfern on the benefits of departments hiring a Grant Developer/Writer:
• For this position, you need someone with a PhD who can relate to faculty at a high level. Dr. Bodnar fit the bill for SSOE since she has a PhD in Chemical Engineering.
• It’s very important for junior faculty to work with a Grant Developer/Writer. Young faculty can sometimes be very naïve when it comes to grant proposals, having access to a Grant Developer can be an important asset.
• Great opportunity for various departments to work together.

ACTION ITEM: Mark Redfern suggested having Dr. Bodnar (or Dr. Julie Myers-Irvin) give a presentation to various Schools/Departments regarding the Grant Developer/Writer position in the future.

Comments from Jeremy Somers on the Health Sciences experience with the Grant Developer position:
• Health Sciences has a very high standard for the Grant Developer position – it’s best to make the minimum requirement at the PhD level
• We have found that it’s very hard to find a PhD that can also write well, it can be difficult to find the right person for the job
• Health Sciences currently have three PhDs in these positions – we have found it’s well worth funding these positions

Discussion on the Undergraduate Research Summer Programs
Mark Redfern announced that the US News recently published a report on Undergraduate Research Programs/Fellowships. The University of Pittsburgh ranks 6th nationally for Undergraduate Research Programs/Fellowships

ACTION ITEM: Mark Redfern to send this announcement out to the Committee

Mark Redfern stated the importance of these Undergraduate Programs/Fellowships and also can develop opportunities to bring in students from other universities. There may be a way to form an exchange program with other universities in the future. Many of these programs are funded through NIH/NSF.

Mark Redfern also discussed the possibility of having Pitt coordinate with the Career Office to obtain data on what students do after graduation (after participating in the summer programs/fellowships). How do these programs actually help students after graduation?

Additional comments on Undergraduate Summer Programs/Fellowships:
• Dr. Greeno commented it would be good to acknowledge faculty who participate in these programs
• Dr. Gibbs suggested using funding for laboratory supplies rather than focusing on paying students?
• Mark Redfern stated the Committee may think about how the Provost Office can facilitate these programs in a positive way?
• Dr. Baker stated the Pitt community should try to bring more publicity of these undergraduate programs. One suggestion was to have a University Awards Banquet at the end of each summer?

The next URC Meeting is scheduled for January 15th at 12:00 noon (University Club).