

Appendix I – Resolution approved April 29, 2011

Resolution for Establishment of a University Standing Committee to advise the University Administration on issues of importance to those faculty and staff who write grant proposals for external funding

Whereas the Administration of West Texas A&M University is encouraging the faculty to increase its role in shared governance of the University, and

Whereas West Texas A&M University is increasingly emphasizing the need to obtain external grant funding, and

Whereas there exists a pool of information and experience at West Texas A&M University among those who write proposals for competitive external grant funds who can provide useful and meaningful suggestions, and

Whereas there are now two separate committees addressing issues of external funding, one appointed by the Faculty Senate and another operating under the auspices of Institutional Advancement, and

Whereas the needs of those writing proposals to different agencies and foundations for competitive external grants differ by department, discipline, and purpose

Be it resolved that the Faculty Senate (FS) of West Texas A&M University recommends the establishment of a single University Standing Committee under the auspices of the Provost/Vice President for Academic Affairs and composed of faculty and staff who write proposals for external funding to advise the Chief Research Officer (CRO), when agencies other than foundations are involved, and the Vice President for Institutional Advancement, when foundations are in consideration, on the needs of the various individuals writing proposals for grants.

Be it further resolved that the External Grants Committee of the Faculty Senate after thoughtful and serious deliberation, and with the endorsement of the Faculty Senate recommends that the committee will be selected from the faculty with two elected from each academic college, preferably with at least one to be a tenured faculty member. Two staff members shall be selected from and by those staff with responsibility for writing proposals.

It is further recommended that only faculty and staff who actually write proposals for external funding will be eligible to serve. External funding regardless of source or application will qualify, including for example grants, contracts, cooperative agreements, and other such instruments as may apply.

The recommendation on committee terms is that committee members will be selected to non-consecutive three years terms. The first committee will have one-third of members eligible for a one-year term. Those members assigned a one-year term will be allowed a one-time renewal for three years. An additional third of the membership will serve two years and not be eligible for a consecutive term, and the final third will serve three years and not be eligible for a consecutive term. Representatives from the same college will have different term expiration dates.

The recommendation of the Faculty Senate is that the Provost shall appoint the chair of the committee from among qualified faculty researchers. If the chair is selected from among the committee members, the college will elect a replacement retaining the requirement that at least one of the college representatives be a tenured faculty member. The chair must be well experienced with writing proposals and receiving external funding and must be a tenured senior faculty member. The chair of the committee will report recommendations to the Chief Research Officer and Vice President of Institutional

Advancement as appropriate. The Chief Research Officer of the University will serve as an ex officio member.

Be it further resolved that the committee may have additional duties including provision of a forum for mentoring faculty who have not previously submitted proposals for external grants but who desire to do so, serving as or providing internal reviewers for proposals, facilitating a change in culture of the University to increased disposition for writing proposals for external grants, facilitating social engagement of faculty and staff interested in writing proposals, and providing advice to the Chief Research Officer and the Vice President for Institutional Development regarding resources and policies that would be deemed appropriate to facilitate submission of requests for external funding. The committee will consider such matters concerning external funding as requested by the university administration.

By majority vote of the Faculty Senate, let it be known that the Faculty Senate of West Texas A&M University requests of the Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost that the University establish a standing committee to be taken into counsel and advise those officers of the administration serving as signature authorities on requests for external funding.