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News

Science Council Announcement

May 14, 2008

To: UO Community From: Linda P. Brady, Senior Vice President and Provost Date: May 14, 2008 Subject: Creation and Administration of a UO Science Council

The President and the Provost hereby establish a standing academic committee to address issues and opportunities regarding research in the sciences at the University of Oregon. The charge of the Committee, to be called the Science Council, is summarized in the Mission Statement below.

Mission of the Science Council

The primary mission of the Council shall be to advise the Provost and the President of the University of Oregon on issues related to science research

and associated infrastructure: to bring ideas and activities of the faculty to the attention of the university administration; to help align the objectives of the Office of the Vice President for Research (VPR) and the College of Arts and Sciences (CAS); to advise on the setting of strategic research priorities and initiatives; and to advise on the general distribution of internal research funds. The Council shall address key issues such as science faculty recruitment and retention; graduate student support; the respective roles of departments, institutes, and centers; priorities for addressing group funding requests coordinated by the Office of the VPR and/or by CAS; and the conduct of major research initiatives such as the Science Advancement and Graduate Education Initiative (SAGE). The Council shall be involved in discussions regarding private fund raising efforts for the sciences, and consulted regarding strategies for major donor cultivation to the extent feasible and desirable.

The Council also shall advise the President and Provost on national and international trends and developments in the sciences and shall provide a forum, as appropriate, for discussion of multidisciplinary and multi-institutional initiatives.

Composition and Structure of the Science Council

The Council shall have the following composition: 2 department heads (at the time of appointment to the Council) from the Division of Natural Sciences within the College of Arts and Sciences (CAS), 2 science institute or center directors (at the time of appointment to the Council), and 2 members-at-large from the science faculty who do not serve, at the time of appointment to the Council, either as department head or as the director of a center or institute. The VPR and the Associate Dean for Natural Sciences (ADS) shall be ex-officio members. The chair of the committee shall be appointed by the Provost, and shall be responsible for setting meeting agendas in consultation with all members of the Council, and with the Provost. Initially, the chair, one of the department heads, and one of the directors shall be appointed for a three-year term, whereas the other members shall be appointed for a two-year term each. Starting in the second year, vacant slots shall be filled by

means of the process described below. No member shall serve two consecutive terms, but members can serve again after at least a two-year break. Initial appointments and meetings will begin in the 2008-2009 Academic Year.

Nomination and Appointment Process

Council Members shall be appointed by the Provost based on the following nomination process. The VPR shall solicit nominations of directors from the centers and institutes, and present two candidates to the Provost. The ADS shall solicit nominations of department heads from the departments, and present two candidates to the Provost. The VPR and ADS shall solicit nominations of members-at-large from the faculty, and subsequently will select two candidates to present to the Provost. The Provost shall make appointments based on criteria that include demonstrated excellence in research, balance among the scientific fields, and diversity, and may ask the VPR and the ADS to present alternate candidates from the pool of nominees to achieve these goals.

Meeting and Reporting Structure

The Council shall meet at the call of the chair as needed, but at least once per term during each academic year. The Council shall submit an annual report of its deliberations and recommendations to the Provost and the President. This report shall be endorsed by the members of the Council, and it shall be made available to all members of the university community.
