

**Research Alliance of Missouri  
Minutes for April 18, 2006  
Held by Teleconference  
11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.**

The Research Alliance of Missouri (RAM) met in regular session on Tuesday, April 18, 2006, beginning at 11:00 a.m. The meeting was held via teleconference.

The following members and other participants were present:

Dr. Bill Alter	Missouri State University, Springfield
Dr. Nasser Arshadi	University of Missouri, St. Louis
Dr. Ted Cicero	Washington University, St. Louis – Chair
Dr. L. Scott Ellis	Truman State University, Kirksville
Dr. John Gardner	University of Missouri, Columbia
Dr. Robert Hall	University of Missouri, Columbia
Ms. Stacey Hirst	MO Department of Economic Development, Jefferson City
Dr. Wayne Huebner	University of Missouri, Rolla
Dr. Ming C. Leu	University of Missouri, Rolla
Dr. Karel Schubert	Donald Danforth Plant Science Center, St. Louis
Dr. Tom Sharpe	University of Missouri, Columbia
Dr. Margaret Stone	Central Missouri State University, Warrensburg
Dr. Frank Veeman	Northwest Missouri State University, Maryville
Dr. John R. Wittstruck	Missouri Department of Higher Education, Jefferson City

Chair Ted Cicero called the meeting to order at 11:11 a.m. after establishing a quorum.

Chair Cicero asked for comments, questions and revisions to the minutes from the March 14, 2006 meeting. As no comments were brought forward, Chair Cicero asked for a motion to approve the March 14, 2006 minutes. Dr. Alter made the motion to approve the minutes. Dr. Sharpe seconded the motion. Hearing no opposition, Chair Cicero declared the minutes approved.

Chair Cicero then moved to discuss the conference funding opportunities. Chair Cicero described the day-long symposium the Chancellor of Washington University is putting together on May 31<sup>st</sup> in St. Louis. Chair Cicero stated that there is some assertion that Washington University and other universities around the state are not interested in technology transfer or commercialization, and the perception that universities as a whole do not try and get together to discuss the needs of industry leaders. What the Chancellor is trying to do by holding this symposium is very ambitious to bring together university and industry leaders to talk about business/academic interaction. He is inviting the VPs for research pharmaceutical and other industries. Chair Cicero stated he has already asked several of the RAM members to participate on a panel discussion.

Dr. Alter asked if the Chair was looking for funding support from the RAM.

Chair Cicero responded that he did not believe they would need monetary support from the RAM, but it might be possible for the RAM to offset the cost of the RAM members attending the symposium. Chair Cicero stated the Chancellor has managed to pull together some influential leaders in this area. The primary intent is to try and clarify what is the appropriate role of the universities in commercialization. There are a lot of expectations from the legislators, the Governor and others that universities should take a stronger role in this area, but there are some misconceptions as well. While universities and industries have different missions, there are areas where we can coincide and work together. There is a great deal of pressure on the universities in the St. Louis area, and in Columbia as well, to spawn businesses and create the new economy, and we are getting some very harsh appraisal that we are not active enough in this area. This might be justified, but the other part of this issue is there is not a good appreciation for what

universities do and should be doing. The line between where does the university stop and the community start is blurred. This symposium is a very good way to begin this discussion.

Dr. Alter asked if Chair Cicero had the detail on the panel sessions.

Chair Cicero said he did not have this information at this time, but the Chancellor had promised to get it to him in the next few days. Generally speaking the Chancellor wants to hear what interface exists between the state universities, and Stowers is part of this as well, and what we collectively review as the problems in the technology transfer area. He is inviting all RAM member University Chancellors and Presidents and it appears he has a good representation. The symposium will be held on the Medical School campus at Washington University. There will be other social activities included.

Chair Cicero then called on Dr. Alter to begin the discussion on the conference funding opportunities.

Dr. Alter stated that two funding proposals were submitted to the RAM, one from Dr. Arshadi and one from Dr. Huebner. Dr. Alter asked Dr. Arshadi to describe his request.

Dr. Arshadi first gave a report that the RAM has just under \$98,000.00 in cash. Current liabilities are about \$289.00, along with other minor expenses relating to the rent, utilities, etc., so it is safe to say the RAM has \$90,000.00 in cash that could be used to fund these opportunities.

Dr. Arshadi went on to discuss the first opportunity, funding the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual NRAM conference which will be held October 6-7, 2006 at the University of Missouri-Columbia campus. He asked that the request amount be increased from \$5,000 to \$10,000. One of the organizers, Dr. Shubhra Gangopadhyay made an appeal to increase the amount. The estimated budget for the conference is \$50,000, with the university raising the additional funding. Dr. Arshadi asked the RAM members for their support in approving the request.

Chair Cicero stated he thought this was a worthy funding opportunity.

Dr. Schubert made the motion for the RAM to approve funding the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual NRAM conference which will be held October 6-7, 2006 to be held at the University of Missouri-Columbia at the \$10,000 level.

Dr. Alter seconded the motion, but asked for Dr. Arshadi to report back to the RAM to let the members know how the funding was spent. Hearing no opposition, Chair Cicero declared the motion approved.

Dr. Alter then asked Dr. Huebner to provide details about the second opportunity.

Dr. Huebner called on Dr. Ming Leu to provide this detail as he is chairing the conference.

Dr. Leu thanked the RAM for the opportunity to present the information and their consideration of funding. Dr. Leu stated the 2006 National Science Foundation Design, Service Manufacturing Grantees and Research Conference would be held July 24-27, 2006 at the Adams Mark Hotel in St. Louis. It is the premier conference in design and manufacturing and is expected to have 500-550 attendees, including 300-400 professors, 100-150 mostly graduate students, and 50 from industry and government. The programs will be mostly done by posters so we expect to have about 300 posters presented by the professors. The conference will also have a keynote speech given by the Vice President of Boeing Company and other panel sessions. There will also be a proposal writing workshop which will be very useful in going into academia. Another very important element are "techno" tours to Anheuser-Busch, Boeing, Emerson, and a few others. Mr. Leu stated the total budget is about \$453,000 to \$500,000, with \$280,000 from NSF and registration fees. Registration fees are \$400 per person. We are looking for funding from RAM because certain things cannot be paid from the NSF grant and we are trying to subsidize some of the dinners, souvenirs estimated at \$10,000, Internet café estimated at \$3,000, printing conference programs \$3,000, bus rental for techno tours \$2,500 and also entertainment during the banquet

\$10,000, etc. Dr. Leu reported that about \$48,750 is needed to cover these costs. Dr. Leu then requested the RAM sponsorship at about half of this amount or about \$25,000 level.

Dr. Leu reported the benefit of being a sponsor is the acknowledgement of the financial support on the conference web site and conference brochure, an announcement of financial support during the conference, five free registrations for each \$5,000 donation, so the RAM could potentially have 25 total free registrations, and finally there will be table available for the sponsors to display their brochures and other products.

Dr. Huebner commented that after the last RAM meeting, Ms. Hirst sent to the RAM members the list of nine industry specialists from the DED. This conference will touch on six of those central themes of interest to the DED, i.e., information technology, advanced manufacturing, automotive industry, energy, logistics/trade, small business. Each of those 6 would have key sessions of interest and hopefully this conference would attract those industry specialists.

Dr. Arshadi commented that if the RAM members vote to approve this funding request, he suggested using the RAM funds in a more conservative way. Due to the audit last year, alcoholic beverages are not acceptable. He suggested using the funds towards hard expenses and not for entertainment or meals if possible. He further suggested using the RAM funds to cover the registration fees for 25 attendees.

Chair Cicero agreed that he felt the best use would be to fund the registration fee for 25 students to attend the conference. That way all the RAM is subsidizing is the registration fees, at the same time helping students with the cost of attending the conference.

Dr. Schubert stated that he fully supported this idea and it would show very well for RAM and Missouri our support of the students.

Chair Cicero further suggested that selection criteria could be established and a committee could select which students would fall under the RAM's support. This would also touch the other overall function of the RAM and the issue of workforce development and how it relates to research institutions being of direct benefit to the state in terms of fostering education in the science areas.

Dr. Leu acknowledged his appreciation of this idea and stated it would demonstrate how much Missouri cares about the education of their students.

Dr. Ellis asked if graduate students would be the targeted students the RAM would want to support.

After some discussion it was suggested by several RAM members to target senior graduate students, post-doctoral fellows and junior faculty for the RAM sponsorship.

Both Chair Cicero and Dr. Alter agreed with this suggestion and stated the first priority should be for senior graduate students, second priority would be for post-doctoral fellows and the third would be junior faculty, as they want to see a balance between students and faculty.

Dr. Huebner stated that he and Dr. Leu would come back to the RAM with a specific budget proposal of what can be covered by the RAM sponsorship.

Dr. Schubert stated the RAM should look at all of the costs of the conference, including the registration, but also the hotel accommodations, etc., because there will be a cost associated with that as well, so maybe a combination of both would be appropriate.

Dr. Arshadi commented that in trying to keep the RAM accounting straight forward it is best for the RAM to pay a lump sum in support of sponsoring an X number of students attending the conference. Then it

would be up to the conference committee to decide how much to spend on registrations, accommodations, etc., but what the RAM should be billed for is a lump sum.

Dr. Alter stated that covering the speaker expenses could be included as well.

There was some discussion on the motion and how it should be worded.

Dr. Alter further suggested that once the motion is approved by the full RAM to go ahead with the sponsorship then the RAM Chair and Treasurer would make the final approval based on the proposal presented by Dr. Huebner and Dr. Leu.

Dr. Arshadi made the motion for the RAM to approve \$25,000 in sponsorship of the 2006 National Science Foundation Design, Service Manufacturing Grantees and Research Conference in order to support the participation of senior graduate students, post-doctoral fellows and junior faculty of Missouri universities, based on the specific budget proposal submitted by Dr. Huebner and Dr. Leu from UMR.

Dr. Ellis then asked if all of the members are comfortable with the \$25,000 amount.

Dr. Arshadi stated that yes he is comfortable with the amount and that he feels it is a great opportunity and very worthwhile conference. Because there are so few proposals on the table he is comfortable spending this amount.

Dr. Alter seconded the motion made by Dr. Arshadi.

Hearing no opposition, Chair Cicero declared the motion passed unanimously.

Dr. Leu thanked the RAM for their support.

Chair Cicero moved to the next agenda item and the transfer of the web site from the current host service provider.

Dr. Alter stated the RAM discussed this item at the last meeting and that by moving the hosting service the RAM would have more support to make changes and updates to the web site. By doing so, the provider would charge both the MTC and RAM \$40 for each site per month.

Ms. Hirst stated the MTC would have to sign a 12-month contract with National Biodiesel Board who is the current host of the MTC web site.

Dr. Alter stated there are three issues involved, the first being the transition from the MTC/RAM to the Missouri Discovery Alliance. If the legislation passes it will become effective August 28<sup>th</sup> and there would obviously be some transition time. Secondly, how long will the RAM exist before the new entity is up and running. A third point would be to ask what the benefit is to even have the web site. There is no point in spending the additional money until we know the outcome of the legislation. Dr. Alter suggested the RAM continue to pay the current web hosting service until we know the outcome of the session.

Several members agreed with this approach.

Dr. Alter asked Ms. Hirst to confirm whether the MTC/RAM will continue to exist if the Discovery Alliance is not approved. If yes, then keeping the web site in its current format would be appropriate.

Ms. Hirst confirmed the MTC and RAM would continue to exist.

Chair Cicero then announced that his last day as Vice Chancellor at Washington University is June 30<sup>th</sup>. He asked how the RAM members want to handle the chair position of the RAM. His replacement would become a member of RAM for Washington University. He also asked if the RAM wanted to continue with the May meeting.

Dr. Arshadi suggested having a face-to-face meeting in St. Louis hosted by Dr. Arshadi in order to personally thank Chair Cicero for his leadership the last two years and all of the good work he has done as a colleague with Washington University.

Ms. Hirst suggested pushing the meeting date back to mid-May and after the legislative session as the outcome of the Missouri Discovery Alliance would be known.

Dr. Alter further suggested that maybe the RAM could hold a meeting in conjunction with the May 31<sup>st</sup> Washington University symposium as many of the RAM members would be in attendance at the symposium and in St. Louis anyway. We could also do a teleconference with Mike Mills after the legislative session ends to give us an update.

Dr. Arshadi nominated Dr. Alter to step in as the Chair of the RAM after June 30<sup>th</sup> as he has served admirably as the Vice Chair.

Dr. Schubert stated he fully supports the idea of having Dr. Alter step in as Chair as it is a good transition from the Vice Chair to the Chair and gives stability to the position.

Dr. Ellis further suggested that Dr. Alter could serve as interim Chair until we learn exactly what is happening to the RAM.

Dr. Alter agreed and commented that if the RAM does continue to exist the RAM could then open it up for nominations of a new Vice Chair.

Dr. Schubert made the motion that Dr. Alter will serve in the capacity of Interim Chair of the RAM after Chair Cicero steps down on June 30<sup>th</sup>.

Dr. Ellis seconded the motion.

Hearing no opposition Chair Cicero declared the motion passed.

Chair Cicero stated that Dr. Sam Stanley will be taking over his position as the Vice Chancellor at Washington University. Dr. Stanley is the senior professor in Infectious Diseases and he is also the Center Director for Wash U's Biodefense program.

Dr. Alter suggested inviting Dr. Stanley to participate in the next RAM teleconference that Mike Mills will call to give an update on the Missouri Discovery Alliance and also to invite him to the meeting around May 31<sup>st</sup>.

Chair Cicero stated he would invite Dr. Stanley to both meetings and called for any other items to be discussed.

Dr. Schubert made the motion to adjourn to the meeting.

Dr. Alter seconded the motion. Hearing no opposition Chair Cicero declared the motion passed.

Meeting adjourned at 11:59 p.m.