Minutes
Department of Aeronautics & Astronautics
January 21, 2011

Attending: Breidenthal, Bruckner, Dabiri, Feraboli, Ferrante, Hermanson, Holsapple, Jarboe, Kurosaka, Lin, Livne, Mattick, Mesbahi, You, Catlett, Maczko

Excused: Morgansen

MUBADALA/UAEU
Mubadala Committee members: Adam Bruckner, Dana Dabiri, Eli Livne, Jim Hermanson, Kristi Morgansen, Kuen Lin, Mehran Mesbahi, Sett You

STATUS

• First contact between lawyers is now happening concerning the agreement between Mubadala and UW. Intellectual property has become an issue since we are unaware of what Mubadala wants. We are starting to get approvals for educational portion from FCAS and CEP. A new degree program has to be approved. There are some concerns among the faculty that the agreement reference aeronautics and not aerospace. Prof. Dabiri pointed out that ABET requires some space courses. Prof. Holsapple requested that we not use aerospace unless absolutely necessary. An agreement needs to be made concerning this. In the current agreement it switches back and forth between aerospace and aeronautics. Prof. Hermanson will try to steer the agreement toward aeronautics.

• There has been some talk about another trip to Mubadala. The Mubadala team would like to have an administrative trip between our officials and our lawyers with their officials and lawyers. Mubadala would prefer to meet halfway between here and Abu Dhabi. Our preference would be that they come here. No decision has been made about when or where this will take place.

• There is some talk about there being a formal signing in April 2011. The date has been pushed back several times already.

QUESTIONS

• What is the exact percentage of fee-based funding retained by UWEO? UWEO will take $25,000 per year. It is a risk opportunity fee (6%) but will reduce each year down to zero. 6.5% is a central overhead fee. Total is 34% in the first year. If we hire new faculty for our department, Mubadala pays for it for ten years or however long needed. The fees may be able to be negotiated. CoE takes 5%. We keep remaining 95%. We will not get a cut of students that register to attend classes here. They register as normal international students. It needs to be clarified how the students will register in the agreement. Department should receive about $600,000. We will not receive the money until year three when students begin enrolling in the program. There is real incentive to make this work, because Mubadala could keep the program going beyond ten years.

• Is it possible that we could be receiving more funding from Mubadala than from the state? Yes. Prof. Lin pointed out that after doing the math, is there enough remaining after fees to pay for the Mubadala faculty. It was agreed that this should be looked into.
What faculty positions can we expect to get and how many will be tenure track? Three faculty but there is some fluidity with what they do. One will be a program director. Two will be tenure track. One will be research faculty. Salary and startup is available with a clear funding line. Prof. Holsapple is concerned that as regular faculty retire, they will not be replaced and then the department will end up fully staffed with 10 year faculty only. It was explained that Dean O’Donnell did not cut Prof. Ly’s faculty line when he left, but said the department could search next year if the money was available.

Can we be assured that A&A will see a new gain in receipts with no corresponding cuts in funding from CoE or the University? There is no indication that this will happen, but it is not in writing. An example given was Computer Science which has all kinds of income but their budget has not been cut because of it.

What compensation is available for work here at the UW and there in Abu Dhabi? Compensation under this program must remain within the 25% excess compensation limit.

To ensure program quality, all research must have an A&A PI – There are plenty of steps to make sure that all research is A&A based. Everything will be run through our department. The current agreement stipulates that to be a PI, the individual must be an adjunct professor. The Program Director has the right to terminate a program that is not focused on the core focus of our department. Prof. Breidenthal requests that all PIs on research projects must be an A&A faculty member, not just a consultant. He also requested that the word “consultant” be removed from the agreement. Collaboration is fine with other departments, but to ensure quality, the role of PI must stay within the department. Prof. Dabiri stated that the person who came up with the idea for research should run the project and put the proposal together. He also feels uncomfortable telling others that our faculty will run their program. Prof. Mesbahi added that there is not enough manpower within our department for our faculty to PI all research projects. Prof. Livne stated that it is definitely an area of concern that we could lose control, but there is also much to gain because other departments have faculty whose work is relevant; real collaboration contributes to our courses, and reduces risk of isolation of AA faculty. Prof. Breidenthal reiterated that this is a transformational opportunity for this department and we have to get it right. He feels strongly that A&A faculty should be PI. Prof. Lin asked if there could be a limit on how much goes outside of the department. Prof. Bruckner asked for “broader impacts” statement in the proposal which must demonstrate how research contributes to educational mission. Prof. Breidenthal added that during his visit to Abu Dhabi, he was under the impression that Mubadala wanted A&A faculty to be responsible for quality and to ensure that, A&A faculty must be PI. Prof. Hermanson said he had a different impression.

Motion (Breidenthal): Pursuant to Mubadala’s request that AA be in charge of quality control, every research proposal will have as project PI a member of the core AA faculty. Seconded, Kurosaka
Clarification (Livne): yes = only AA faculty as PIs; no = open to outside adjunct faculty
Vote 3 in favor, 10 against, 0 abstaining
Motion not carried

Prof. Holsapple requested that an organizational chart be added to the agreement.

Prof. Kurosaka inquired as to whether we had enough space to house the new faculty.