

CAC Minutes

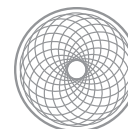
# Meeting Summary

April 30, 2009

Durham 206

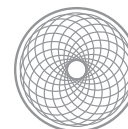
**Members Present:** Scott McLeod (Chair), Fred Gulden, Jim Twetten, Philip Spike, Tony Townsend, Denise Schmidt, Joe Herriges, Larry Booth, James Parrott, Babatunde Abidoye, Steve Sanda, Steve Sulhoff, Jamie Fath, Scott Pattee, Allan Schmidt, Mike Bowman, Jonathan Salvador

- Meeting called to order at 5:10PM
- McLeod: First off, we've had a previously funded project come in about \$6,000 under budget. So they've sent a request to us so that they could buy some additional equipment that wasn't on the original list. Mike and I have traded some emails on this, and it seems to us that this falls under the category of, "We've saved some money and now we'd like to buy some more stuff". Traditionally I think the committee has not funded an expansion of the original grant in new directions. Am I characterizing that right?
  - Bowman: Some of the things are in addition to the original items they had in the request. And there also seem to be some aspects that are an expansion of the original proposal.
  - McLeod: Right, so there's some expansion and some additional stuff and I think we just need to decide for the \$6,000 bucks do we want it to revert or do we want to allow them with these last few dollars that they have and expand it in new directions.
  - Spike: I think that the tradition has been that technology prices typically go down and we didn't want to just say, "Well here's some money; spend it anyway you want". That doesn't mean that if they come back with things that the committee feels are in line with what the original proposal was all about that it's not fundable. I think we need to determine whether this falls in line with the spirit of the original proposal.
  - McLeod: I think the expense fall in line with the original intent of the proposal. They're just asking for some additional equipment. The original grant was, I want to say \$36,000?
  - Herriges: It seems that just as a process, this could makes things complicated down the road, because then everybody is going to save a little bit of money and see where they can spend the extra money; I worry about that.
  - McLeod: If the money reverts, it just goes back into the central pool?
  - Bowman: It just stays in the central pool.
  - McLeod: Any other conversation? Or a motion?

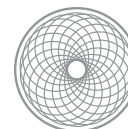


CAC Minutes

- Herriges: I'll move that the funds go back to the central pool.
  - Motion seconded
  - Motion carries
- McLeod: Okay, so the primary purpose of this meeting is to go over what we did this year and talk about any revisions or concerns that we need to think about for next year. Fred, you had a couple. As you'll recall, we did some pretty big stuff this year. We made the decision to revise our criteria and our scoring rubric, which was a pretty big deal. The other big move we made this year was reduce the total amount of dollars we had available in the competitive pool, and pass more funds straight through to the colleges. So, why don't we start with Fred's concerns.
  - Gulden: Again, it was just sort of a historical thing that when we created that website our biggest concern was that we had a level playing field. The assumption was that that was where questions were going to be asked, so that at meetings people who represented areas that had projects up for consideration couldn't answer questions or sell their project, giving them an opportunity that projects who didn't have representation at the meetings didn't have. It seems that over time we've gotten away from that.
    - Twetten: We didn't seem to have a lot of questions this year on the forum website; it just didn't get utilized very well this year. I'm not sure why that is.
    - Spike: I think part of it is anticipating the question that you're going to have. There's something different about coming together and talking about the proposals compared to sitting down individually to read the proposals. Maybe as a technology committee we need to evaluate whether there's a better way of ... maybe we ought to ask them for a youtube question session or something... but I think there's something still missing from that website.
    - Gulden: Also, it seemed that in the past we've had a longer period with the forum being up; before the first round rating. Maybe that had something to do with the limited participation.
    - McLeod: So, would we have asked more questions in the forum if we'd had more time?
    - Gulden: I don't know.
    - McLeod: Okay, so it seems that the relevant issues are: Is the online forum still the place to throw questions? And if the forum still is a viable option, maybe just more time would be helpful.
    - Bowman: Let me, ask this question: Would it help if the deadlines for the proposal submissions was moved up so there was more time for questions and feedback? Currently the deadline is the Friday before Spring break. So CAC would move its deadline up, and colleges would have to move their deadlines up.
    - Townsend: I think it's clear that we need to move the deadline up; let's just say that they should be in by January 15th. It's just part of the annual cycle, it's doable.



- Pattee: Well, the proposers who are going to get hurt are the students. And I'm not just bringing that up because I'm a student, it's just that students are going to come up with idea that none of us would have come up with.
- McLeod: Okay, so there seems to be interest in revising the schedule to accommodate earlier deadlines. Do we want to do that tonight? Leave it for next year?
- Townsend: Let's just set the agenda for next year that we immediately finalize the call and get it out by early November.
- McLeod: Well, unless the group decides to radically overhaul the call again.
- Bowman: Well, the schedule change doesn't have to be drastic; we just want to get a couple more weeks.
- McLeod: Alright... moving on to Fred's third concern, which is around rankings. As you'll recall one of the issues we had was that the original rankings came out, and then we had some late submissions of rankings. So that of course, altered the total rankings. We went through multiple iterations of that within one day. So there were some potential concerns about how that might play out.
  - Gulden: And, regardless of my hypothetical scenarios, I think just for Jonathan's sanity, we need to set a hard deadline, after which no further rankings will be accepted.
  - Townsend: Sure, I'd say we need to have a simple deadline.
  - Spike: I would agree to that, that we need to have a hard deadline. I mean, you'd like to get everybody's input in, but I think there probably needs to be a deadline after which only corrections are allowed.
- McLeod: Alright, I think we addressed Fred's concern. I'll add my own small concern, which is just that we had a couple proposals despite direction in the call, submitted more than one budget. How do we want to handle that next year?
  - Booth: Probably just send it back to them and tell them to resubmit with one budget.
  - Twetten: I would actually argue that. I'm not sure how strongly I feel about this, but I think there was a good reason for having a minimum budget. With a now more limited pool, I wanted to know what were the barebones required and what's the added benefit in going to the next level.
  - Townsend: From a proposal writer standpoint, I'd think about how I could game that system; where I'd submit a minimum of what I needed, and then shoot for the moon with the maximum budget. But sitting on the committee, I guess I like the final offer approach more.
  - Spike: I guess I've been involved a long time, and the two budgets for me gave me a sense of what the proposal writer's priorities were.



CAC Minutes

- McLeod: So, do we have any consensus on how to handle this issue?
- Spike: I guess we should just pass it on to next year.
- McLeod: Alright, so we're going to pass the buck on this to next year, which means next year you guys will have to decide on this by your first or second meeting at the very latest.
- McLeod: Any other concerns or comments about this year?
- Meeting adjourned