

HARBOR BRANCH OCEANOGRAPHIC INSTITUTE

FOUNDATION

**Minutes
Grants Committee Meeting
May 15, 2018
Held at the Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institute Foundation**

PRESENT: Mike Brown, Sr.; Joe Ferro*; Mike Toner*, Chair; Mike O'Reilly*

ABSENT: C. Amos Bussmann

ALSO PRESENT: Katha Kissman, President & CEO; Debbie Dutton, Director of Operations; Dr. James Sullivan, HBOI Interim Executive Director; Patrick Boles, HBOI Associate Executive Director

*Participated virtually

Call to Order

Chair Toner called the meeting to order at 4:00 pm.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

The minutes of the October 13, 2017 Grants Committee Meeting were approved unanimously.

Discussion Items

Review of SLP Grant Reports

All SLP Grant Reports were uploaded in advance for the Committee's review prior to the meeting. President Kissman reported full compliance and also thanked HBOI for their cooperation in submitting the reports.

The Marilyn C. Link Memorial Internship

Per the suggestion made at the May 1, 2018 Board Meeting, President Kissman reported on the development of the Marilyn C. Link Memorial Internship document in collaboration with Patrick Boles, Dennis Hanisak and Cathy Rossmell at HBOI. Said document was forwarded in advance to the Grants Committee. After discussion, the motion passed unanimously to recommend to the Board the establishment of The Marilyn C. Link Memorial Internship to annually fund one intern with a focus on ocean engineering/technology for the HBOI Sumer Internship Program with a \$5,000 grant each year beginning in FY20.

2019 Spendable and Discretionary Grant Opportunities

Recommendations for discussion with the Grants Committee as noted below resulted from meetings Katha Kissman and Debbie Dutton had with Jim Sullivan and Patrick Boles. The following recommendations were built on the Grants Committee's thoughts and discussions from its October 2017 meeting:

Incentive Grant “Float” Re-Purpose

Of the \$314,369.00 remaining Incentive Grant “float” ((unlikely to be fully used in FY18 and FY19); recommended re-purpose of \$200,000 of the remaining amount for:

FY19 Bridge Funds Pool

\$200,000

Performance Period -- July 1, 2018 – June 30, 2019

The competitiveness of the current grant funding climate presents challenges to HBOI faculty who are expected to bring in 70% of their salary as well as the full salaries of their personnel. Gaps in funding have negative effects on the continuation of active research programs due to loss of skilled research staff as well as lack of productivity during the gap period. The Bridge Funding Support program provides interim resources to mitigate a challenging grant climate and to facilitate the ongoing viability of extramurally funded research projects. This program is designed to provide temporary (up to 12 months) support to retain faculty and their essential personnel during continuing efforts to obtain full extramural funding or during the transition of faculty back into research after having an administrative role. Document provided in advance to the Grants Committee. The criteria for awarding these funds will be based on track record of productivity at HBOI including history of securing extramural grants, publications, and service for the previous 5 year period as attested on yearly faculty appraisal forms.

Discretionary Funds

Of the budgeted \$1,180,170.00 in FY19 Discretionary Funds, proposed purposes were presented as follows:

1. ***FY19 20% Promoting Faculty Recruitment, Retention and Research Excellence***

Request: \$520,000

Performance Period -- July 1, 2018 – June 30, 2019

The HBOI Foundation (HBOIF) “Ensuring Faculty Excellence” grant will conclude at the end of FY18. This very successful grant/program provided up to 20% salary support for HBOI Research Faculty. At FAU-HBOI, Research Faculty has been provided up to 30% salary coverage from FAU Education & General (E&G) budget accounts. There is no guarantee that this full 30% salary coverage will always be available to faculty, as state cuts to University E&G budgets could create budget shortfalls that require lowering this percent salary coverage. The addition of up to 20% salary support from the HBOIF has been an important component of HBOI Research Faculty funding, bringing potential salary support up to 50%. Memorandum provided in advance to the Grants Committee.

2. ***FY19 Center for Oceans and Human Health (COHH): Addressing the Health of Florida Coastal Ecosystems and Communities.***

Request: \$650,000

Performance Period -- July 1, 2018 – June 30, 2019

The purpose of the first year of this major project would be to establish a ***Center for Oceans and Human Health*** which would provide integrated research of the biological, physical, chemical, genomic, transcriptomic and toxicity characteristics of Harmful Algal Bloom (HAB) events in the Indian River Lagoon (IRL) ecosystem. It is anticipated that results will develop ecosystem-based models that can be used in

understanding ecological shifts that are occurring as a result of environmental change to predict the response of HABs, with the ultimate goal of minimizing the health consequences to the people who live in the IRL watershed. 20 HBOI PIs are anticipated on this project. In addition, it is anticipated that numerous HBOI Post-Graduate students and Lab Technicians will be working directly on this project. Documentation provided in advance to the Grants Committee.

The merits of the proposed projects were discussed. President Kissman reminded the committee that approximately one quarter to one third of the spendable is dedicated for operations, approximately one third to one half has been encumbered as payments in against previously made ongoing or multi-year grants, and the remainder may be dedicated by the Finance Committee for discretionary grants. Previous encumbrances are winding down (New Faculty Hire Grant, Incentive Grant) which will free up additional availability for new discretionary grantmaking, hence the budgeted \$1,180,170.00 in FY19 Discretionary Funds. Our policy and practice is that we use current year spendable available for budgeting and for payment of expenses in the year rendered; we do not restrict funds or carry unexpended funds forward. We expense in the year services were provided, supported by invoice and documentation.

Because the proposed **FY19 Bridge Funds Pool** and **FY19 20% Promoting Faculty Recruitment, Retention and Research Excellence Grant** would significantly support the sustainability of the Faculty and Research Staff of the Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institute and the **FY19 Center for Oceans and Human Health (COHH): Addressing the Health of Florida Coastal Ecosystems and Communities** would support the goals of HBOIF grantmaking as high impact, with high visibility focusing on the Indian River Lagoon, and could be poised for leveraging for external funding for Year 2 and beyond based on key data collected in Year 1, the following motion was approved unanimously:

The following motion to recommend to the HBOIF Board at its May 22, 2018 meeting the following grants for FY19 was approved unanimously:

To approve moving \$200,000 from the remaining Incentive Grant “float” in FY19 to establish an initial Bridge Funds Pool;

To approve an initial up to \$520,000 grant in FY19 for the **Promoting Faculty Recruitment, Retention and Research Excellence Grant** which would provide up to 20% Salary Support for HBOI Faculty.

Both of these grants will be deemed to be 3 year rolling grants, evaluated and renewed annually, subject to a cap of up to one-third of the annual Spendable as designated by HBOIF Investment Policy. The process and criteria for both grants are to be developed by HBOI with concurrence by the HBOIF Staff.

To approve \$650,000 in FY19 to fund the first year of the **Center for Oceans and Human Health (COHH): Addressing the Health of Florida Coastal Ecosystems and Communities** with an intention to possibly fund annually up to three to five years subject to performance and evaluation, and the ability for leveraging for external funding (desired by the Committee) that may be leveraged.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:09 pm.