The meeting was called to order at 3:00 p.m., Jason Thrun presiding.

Thrun announced that the Provost has increased the SAIF funds by $10,000 to a total of $70,000 for Category A and Category B grants combined. This is the first increase of any kind for the grants since 1986, when the program started.

Thrun met with UWP Foundation representatives, including Dennis Cooley, recently and provided an overview of that meeting. Thrun stated that the AIRC should establish our needs clearly, to help guide the Foundation in soliciting funds in support of research activities at UWP. What would we offer to researchers for summer salaries? Is our current limit appropriate? Should we calculate an annual increase that reflects, perhaps, a cost of living adjustment? Do we fund all of the research requests that are submitted, suggesting we have plenty of funds, or do we have qualified research projects that are not funded? Thrun would like committee members to considered these questions and develop a proposal by the end of spring semester.

In addition, AIRC members are encouraged to send any anecdotal information to Thrun this semester that supports our need for research funding. One example is the study last year that was funded by the AIRC and went on to be funded by an outside agency (possibly the NSF). Another example is a project that was not funded by the AIRC, but a request for proposals is now being circulated by the International Association of Business Communicators for $50,000 to support similar research. These examples provide a glimpse of how important and valued research is by national and international agencies.

Lomax stated that her office can prepare data to reflect the amount of funds requested for previous years and the amount funded. Thrun suggested the past five years of data would be useful. Gasior suggested that a summary of results would be useful to the Foundation for the same time frame. She also added that the UWP Publications office would be interested in results for recent research projects, to develop press releases and testimonials about successful research projects. Lomax will also check the data to see if information can be compiled about outside grants activities for Category B SAIF proposals.

Lomax offered a brief overview of two important activities that are coming up this semester. The 8th Annual UW System Symposium for Undergraduate Research and Creative Activity will be held April 20 at UW-Stout. We have 10 students who will be attending this event; some of these students are our PURF recipients. For more information go to: http://www.uwstout.edu/outreach/symposium/index.htm.

Lomax also mentioned the Posters in the Rotunda event, which will be held in April also. We have limited availability for attendees at this event, but we do have interested students. Contact the Office of Sponsored Programs for more information.

In addition, a new program for release time grants will be circulated later this week to support proposal development for grants in excess of $50,000. These grants are being awarded by the WiSys Technology Foundation. For more information, look for document on the “Funding Opportunities” link at the Office of Sponsored Programs website and watch your mailbox this week.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:40 p.m. The next meeting will be held Tuesday, March 6 at 3:00 p.m. in 320 Brigham. SAIF proposals will be distributed at this meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

B. J. Reed