

**Research Council Minutes**  
**April 29<sup>th</sup>, 2021**  
**3:30pm – 5:00pm**  
**via WebEx**

VOTING:

Jason Carter	Sarah Shannon
Mary Miles	Colin Shaw
Mary Cloninger	Nicole Tuss
Ron June	Blake Wiedenheft
Brent Peyton/Robin Gerlach	Carl Yeoman
Michael Brody / Eric Austin	Nicholas Childs

NON-VOTING:

Craig Ogilvie  
Chris Kearns/ Jim Mitchell  
Terry Leist  
Robert Mokwa/Durward Sobek  
Leslie Schmidt  
Jonathan Hilmer  
Jayne Morrow  
Liz Shanahan

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VP Carter called meeting to order at 3:32 pm.

○ Brief Announcements

- VP Carter thanked the Research Council for doing a great job through this remarkable year. He reminded the council on COBRE and EPSCoR internal deadlines coming in mid-May.
  - VP Carter thanked Dr Jayne Morrow and Dr Liz Shanahan for hosting the Grand Challenge Workshops on Food and Fuel Security. The next sessions will be topic related to health and ecosystems. He asked RC members to share ideas of the external or internal speakers for these sessions.
  - VP Carter shared that the President agreed to match the fund to kick off the Core Facilities grant program next year. This will be distributing toward maintenance, new equipment and building towards sustainability.
  - Leslie Schmidt shared update on the Core Facilities effort with Huron Consulting. They conducted a campus-wide discussion to understand their cost structures and areas of issue. She also worked with Huron on the Vacation/Sick leave pool and reached out to HR IT to work on implementing these changes.
- March 25 OCHE memo on summer/fall expectations: [https://mus.edu/coronavirus/memo\\_3-25-2021.html](https://mus.edu/coronavirus/memo_3-25-2021.html) (J. Carter)
- VP Carter shared the announcement from OCHE that by the start of fall semester, all operations will be back to pre-pandemic. No masks, no social distancing.

- Provost Mokwa added that the transitioning will be during the summer. The MUS task force will meet next week to put forward or to develop some guidelines to be discussed at the BOR meeting on May 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>.
- Follow-up on procurement discussion (L. Schmidt)
  - Leslie Schmidt worked with Brian O’Conner, the director of Procurement Services, on increasing the micro purchase threshold from \$5,000 to \$10,000 for federally-funded grants.
- Interdisciplinary Research Recommendations (N. Stoop)
  - Nika Stoop joined the RC meeting to get comments on the recommendations that the Research Capacity team put together before it passes along to the President, she asked them to look into metric goal 2.2: Expand interdisciplinary scholarship.
  - These recommendations were put together from looking at different reports, as well as doing survey of other data from other universities. There are three areas of recommendations:
    1. Connecting scholars across disciplines and research development -- proposing faculty fellows program in the summer to bringing teams together to developing projects.
    2. Developing policies and recognition for interdisciplinary scholarship -- Joint hires help in creating clusters of expertise. Need to consider some structure to avoid people from the same partnership.
    3. Optimizing structure and physical space for ideas -- The challenge that University has to go through is report and organization structure often limit in their department. Having grant support staff members in each college will bring groups across campus together. Another aspect is designing a high-profile, central location for interdisciplinary activities as well as having a virtual interface. We can engage people across Montana by having both options.
  - Jonathan Hilmer, Craig Ogilvie, Mary Miles, Brent Peyton and Colin Shaw supported these recommendations with positive feedback. One of the suggestion is introducing interdisciplinary publication, open access journals, interdisciplinary.
  - VP Carter mentioned Academic Analytics program can show collaborators outside of the institution.
  - Nika Stoop appreciated the feedback and will be emphasizing more about how scholarly products can be part of the metrics.

- Grand Challenge Metric Recommendations (L. Shanahan)
  - Dr. Shanahan revisited with the RC on the Grand Challenge metrics that was presented last month. The five metrics was reduced to three metrics- internally tracked and externally facing measures:
    1. Scholarship- Looking at products under scholarship; capture number of data sources from grant that address the grand challenge area, number of faculty involved, expenditures, etc.
    2. Engagement-To capture what/where we are doing in communities/MT regards to 4 Grand Challenges by tracking from Chrome River and travel authorization
    3. Learning- Give Graduate students an opportunity to address in the dissertations, creative activities, projects if their work apply to any of these Grand Challenges.
  - Dr. Shanahan also added the idea of developing an award for each Grand Challenge.
  - VP Carter asked for motion to move this forward to the planning council prior move to the President for recommendations. Robin Gerlach moved the motion, Blake Wiedenheft seconded. The vote was approved unanimously.
- Q3 research expenditure report (J. Carter)
  - VP Carter shared dashboard chart to RC members to provide more details on where we are now and where things are headed for end of FY21. The REDGE office is prioritizing strategic investments back to the faculty and researchers. One proposed strategy has been to work with the Foundation on some naming rights to some buildings that we still pay from F&A.
- Other/future items?
  - Leslie reminded the Research Council that the State of Montana legislative auditors are on campus.

The meeting adjourned at 5:00 pm.

**Next Research Council Meeting: August 25<sup>th</sup>, 2021 3:30 pm**