

Research Council Minutes
January 29, 2020
3:00pm – 5:00pm
President's Conference Room

VOTING:

Jason Carter	Alice Running
Rollin Beamish	Colin Shaw
Mary Cloninger	Nicole Tuss
Ron June	Blake Wiedenheft
Brent Peyton/Robin Gerlach	Carl Yeoman
Nic Rae	Nicholas Childs
William Ruff	

NON-VOTING:

Craig Ogilvie
Kearns, Chris/ Jim Mitchell
Leist, Terry
Mokwa, Robert/ Singel, David
Schmidt, Leslie
Hilmer, Jonathan
Jayne Morrow

1. Approval of Dec 12 minutes

Motion made to approve minutes; approved as submitted.

2. Announcements

- a. **FBI visit** delayed to Thursday, Feb. 27; this workshop designed for Department Chairs, Deans and Directors and any RC member who would like to participate.
- b. **Academic Analytics recap/debrief** provided by David Singel, focused on understanding the collaborative network and pushing forward to obtain faculty awards. Need RC to own the development of the process.
- c. **Feedback on Research Computing SIP** Jonathan Hilmer provided information about Hyalite Cluster, an interconnected bank of computers in Bozeman that combines to form a supercomputer. It was deployed in 2015, we need to consider if we would like to replace it, as it is reaching end of life. It is more expensive to maintain than the value of having it run. SIP proposal to replace it. Seeking input from RC on this proposal. Craig Ogilvie asked if it's a better strategy to use national resources? Jonathan shared that this can (and is) a resource for some, but that having Hyalite opens up more early-stage research options that can eventually lead to national resource needs.
- d. **TOPAZ software update for Research Compliance** Kirk Lubick described new software that aims to reduce burden for both faculty and research administration. We will conduct training, including one-on-one trainings, on how to navigate and utilize the system.

3. VPREDGE presentation – Tentative FY21 Priorities (similar version was presented at a recent Leadership Council meeting)

- Research Update: NSF HERD (Higher Education Research & Development Survey), and why tracking internal research investments is so critical to strategic plan metrics.
- Survey is broken down by Federal Government, State/Local Government, institutional, industry and non-profit/other sources. For FY19, we incorporated following research expenditures that are allowed for reporting, but have been missed in recent years due to coding issues.
 - o Several university research institutional funds that are separately budgeted for individual R&D projects
 - o Tuition waivers associated with GRAs, which amounted to ~\$2.2M
 - o Readjustment of MAES funding to proper category (i.e., state/local government)

- These HERD changes ensure we are maximizing our expenditures, which is important for several reasons, including the fact that Carnegie pulls from this data set. Tentative NSF HERD expenditures for 2019 are ~\$154M. Capturing additional institutional investments in research are expected to continue for the next two to three years.
- VP Carter shared some preliminary budget projections for FY20 and FY 21. For FY20, we garner ~20 million on F&A. Nearly 56% of all F&A budget goes toward fixed costs (i.e., building loans, leases, O&M, institutional memberships, etc.). Another 21.5% of the budget goes back to Unit Reinvestment to College deans and Center/Institute directors. Of the remaining \$4.1 million that we have to invest, almost half of that goes into faculty start-ups.
- VPREDGE is currently working on strategies to invest FY21 in ways that impact the strategic plan. FY20 is proving to be a challenging year because we are taking on ARL costs without any income generation yet, but we expect that to begin to change in FY21.
- Finally, VP Carter shared a preliminary VPREDGE Org Chart, with goal of providing more structure for the unit. This will include a new Associate VP for Research Development (pending SIP review and Presidential approval).

4. Conflict of Interest Committee Update Working on a revised STTR/SBIR policy. There is a need to provide better guidance to faculty that want to utilize this funding mechanism, as well as how it interfaces with campus-wide Conflict of Interest (COI) policy. Additionally, COI policy is being reviewed within the context of traditional COI definition vs. new and emerging language on Conflict of Commitment.

5. Updates from RC subgroups

- a. Core Facilities – Mary, Leslie, Colin, met in December and have a better idea on how to develop the grant program. Jason asks them to meet in February.
- b. Centers/Institutes – Brent said they are planning meeting in February..
- c. Graduate Education – Ron, Craig, Bill Ruff, Eric met to discuss graduate advisor workshop. There’s national organization, CIMER (Center for Improvement of Mentored Experiences in Research), that specializes in this area; they can come to campus and work with our top graduate faculty. The current plan is to bring this group in before the semester starts. The group looks for suggestions on who you would recommend to be included. The idea is to ask them to then facilitate a workshop in each of their own departments.
- d. Large Collaborative Grants – Alice Running and Carl Yeoman provided update. Alice is wondering on how Academic Analytics could be part of this conversation. David Singel provided some explanation of the possibilities, and will continue to interface with this committee.

6. OTHER

- Colin updated on the NCUR registration, and shared that they are looking for faculty moderators.
- Leslie reminded everyone about the opportunity to “test drive” the PIVOT Pilot; if you’re interested, please let her know.
- ARL update: Occupancy permitted. Jason plans to have one of our next meetings at one of the conference rooms there.

**Next Research Council Meeting: Wednesday, Feb. 26, 2020, 3 p.m.
President’s Conference Room, Montana Hall**