

**Research Council Minutes**  
**December 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2021**  
**3:30pm – 5:00pm**

**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	Nicholas Childs
Molly Secor Turner	

**NON-VOTING:**

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

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Meeting was called to the order at 3:31 pm.

1. Review and approval of minutes
  - Robin Gerlach motioned to amend the minutes on Continuation of Strategic Plan input/feedback – Goals 2.3 and 2.4 topic: missing word “members” after the National Academy. Amended minutes approved.
2. Brief Announcements/Updates
  - Walter Fleming received \$2.5 million from the Cargill Foundation grant for activities associated with Native American Hall and the Buffalo Food system initiative.
  - VP Carter also shared the number of Expenditures is up ~20% from last November 2020.
3. Feedback/Follow-Up/Next Steps on Research Year-In-Review
  - VP Carter asked for the feedback for the Research Year-In-Review, which highlighted the investments for:
    - a. Core facilities and ORD
    - b. Graduate Investments
    - c. Grand Challenges
  - Liz Shanahan shared one feedback asking to provide the number of the projects in each agency where faculty submitted grants to help better understand the distribution ideas and where to put the efforts.
  - Leslie Schmidt is working on a ten-year look back on the percentage of the portfolio from all agencies and might be able to get that number from this data.

- Ron June suggested collecting data on the number of graduate student support from each award. The data would help with recruitment as some agencies might have a higher percentage of funded graduate students.
- Craig Ogilvie mentioned one issue is that sometimes the grant duration is not long enough. He suggested the letter of offer should include how many years of funding (\*contingent on satisfactory progress toward your degree) and the funding resources. However, the problem is how to guarantee the fund.
- VP Carter suggested working with Dean Ogilvie on mechanisms and programs for a backup fund/plan, if interested. To be discussed in January, VP Carter asked the RC to find ways to invest in the Grand Challenges to encourage interdisciplinary collaboration between faculty members to get after some large fundings around the Grand Challenge areas.
- The RC members shared ideas from having a monthly meeting to bring faculty together to expose them to the possibilities of funding or having seed grants to focus on specific goals and targets. To succeed, we need some people who will lead the effort.
- VP Carter would like the RC to think about these two issues:
  - How do we build on the momentum for the Graduate side?
  - How do we build this community around the Grand Challenges?
- Ryan Knutson asked the RC members for their thoughts on the outreach for the research computing environment – how to find ways for the UIT to better engage with the graduate research assistant community.
- One suggestion is to have a cross-disciplinary assistantship where full-time resources or graduate research assistants help with problem-solving. Maybe the Help Center is staffed by graduate students to work in some cloud computing or web services. Another suggestion is to have a conversation with the Statistic department; they have had graduate students embedded in the research project that might be able to help.
- One issue brought up was recruiting Post-Docs on campus and getting housing. Dean Ogilvie shared that the Graduate School now has a web page providing onboarding, housing resources for Post-Docs. He would like to see Post-Docs considering getting involved in national Post-Doc Association to help them take on leadership roles, social events, professional development.
- Blake Wiedenheft shared the idea of having Post-Doc seminar series to recruit Post-Doc from other Universities to talk on campus and give the slots to the department that looks for recruiting them.
- Jayne Morrow agreed that would be opportunities that we could share with the national labs and other federal partners.

4. Update on EO on vaccines for contracts
  - More details to come in January for contract employees to either provide the vaccination card or go through an exemption process and take a weekly test.
  
5. Other/Future Items?
  - Colin Shaw shared the Student Research Celebration will be held on December 10<sup>th</sup>. He also shared that the students in Microbiology has created a new undergraduate research journal called the Curiositas, which focus on different research areas. The first issue came out on December 1<sup>st</sup>. The journal will be issued three times a year.

Meeting adjourned at 4:39 pm.

**Next Research Council Meeting: January 19<sup>th</sup>, 2022 3:30 pm**