

**Research Council Agenda**  
**August 25<sup>th</sup>, 2021**  
**3:30pm – 5:00pm**

**VOTING:**

Jason Carter

Mary Miles

Mary Cloninger

Ron June

Brent Peyton/Robin Gerlach

Michael Brody

Molly Secor Turner

Sarah Shannon

Colin Shaw

Nicole Tuss

Blake Wiedenheft

Carl Yeoman

Nicholas Childs

**NON-VOTING:**

Craig Ogilvie

Chris Kearns/ Jim Mitchell

Terry Leist

Robert Mokwa/Durward Sobek

Leslie Schmidt

Ryan Knudson

Jayne Morrow

Liz Shanahan

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**AGENDA:**

Meeting called to order at 3:31 pm

- Welcome new RC members/attendees
  - VP Carter welcomed Dr. Molly Secor, the new associate dean from the College of Nursing.
  - No Amendment to the April meeting minutes. Mary Cloninger moved for approval, seconded by Ron June. The minutes were approved.
- Brief updates/announcements
  - Key summer accomplishments/updates from RC members
    - Mary Miles shared Jayne Downey received a \$1.5M award related to rural education from the Cargill Foundation
    - Nikki Tuss shared MilTech received a Nunn-Perry award from the Defense Department's Mentor-Protégé program.
    - Nick Childs shared that Yves Idzerda and Nick Borys won a \$20 million grant from the National Science Foundation for the Quantum Foundry to develop quantum materials and devices.
    - Blake Wiedenheft shared an announcement from Microbiology and Cell Biology that Eric Boyd received a \$1M from Keck Foundation Grant to do Microbial Research in Yellowstone.

- VP Carter added that a substantial investment would be announced on Monday for the College of Nursing that will positively impact research and scholarship.
- Update on Huron projects (L. Schmidt)
  - Leslie Schmidt updated on the two projects with Huron- establishing vacation/sick leave pool and CORE Facilities are making progress.
- Staff updates for ORD, OSP, and ORC (L. Shanahan, L. Schmidt and K. Lubick)
  - Liz Shanahan shared the Internal awards are up on the VPREDGE website. She also shared about the process of established Office of Research Development – searching for ORD director, starting a Research Development Community, to provide knowledge and assist faculty at all stages of the proposal process.
  - Leslie updated about positions that needed to be filled in OSP. She will be retiring on December 31<sup>st</sup> after 37 years at MSU.
  - Nick Childs updated on the change in ORC– Lauren Cantamessa took on the role as Associate Director. Amy Robison will take over BSL3 Manager as Kathy Jutila will be retired next week. Joe Brown moved over to ARL, Quinton King stepped into Export Control role. Gina Taylor is now the conflict of interest manager.
- FY22 and FY23 federal relations update (J. Morrow)
  - Jayne Morrow updated about federal relations portfolio- For FY21, with \$85M from 60 requests (not all directly to MSU), we are able to get those projects to the appropriate funding mechanism and competitive grant programs. For FY 22, we are looking at 22 projects that are over \$120M in request.
  - We are partnering with the Army Corps Engineers to host a virtual workshop to showcase our research programs. Also, we are hosting some visitors from Idaho National Laboratory in helping build a blanket master agreement. We are collaborating with Rocky Mountain Laboratory to better understand training opportunities and ways that students can work with their facility, sabbaticals and research programs.
- Graduate education update (C. Ogilvie)
  - Craig Ogilvie gave an update on working with the OPA to analyze the stipend that GRA's received last year compared to the prior year. Seven departments had a greater than 10% increase in the monthly stipend.
  - Current graduate enrollment at time of meeting is 2,150, which is on target for record fall enrollment.

- There will be big initiatives that may impact retention and time to the degree. Graduation rate for doctorate is still high %55, wants to increase more to meet the strategic plan goals. Craig is also working to build a post-docs community.
  
- 994-Calling for 2020-21
  - The 994-Calling Series will be Hybrid version. The location will be at SUB 235.
  
- Preliminary FY21 Year-In-Review and FY22 Goals (J. Carter)
  - Final FY21 Expenditures and Awards
    - VP Carter shared Year-in-Review (Preliminary Report).
      - Research Expenditures and Portfolio
      - Grand Challenge Highlights
      - Leveraging Partnership: NSF MRI + Murdock Charitable Trust
      - Core Facilities
      - Economic Development
      - Graduate Education
  
    - Final FY21 number is \$193M is a total research expenditure. Credit goes to our faculty and researchers for the extraordinary job over a course of a pandemic to shifted their research programs towards COVID.
  
    - The FY21 numbers include 15% increase in sponsored research expenditures, 21% increase in new authorized awards. We are able to establish some strategic investments. The new credit system is captured and credit back to Colleges and Centers & Institutions.
  
    - VP Carter is asking RC's help in identifying strategic projects related to the four Grand challenges. One award per project that highlights the Grand Challenge. One key scholarly publication/product, one faculty/research national or international award.
  
    - NSF-MRI awards typically require 30% cost-share. The relationship with the Murdock Charitable Trust helps us in partnership with this program. This partnership cuts across every element of our strategic plan when we invest in research infrastructure.
  
    - We have many more women in an inventorship which aligns with the strategic planning. We want to build the culture that anyone can be part of entrepreneurship.
  
  - REDGE Core Facilities
    - VP Carter shared the Core Facility program website that will be released soon. There will be a list of Core Facilities, resources on how to establish a core, how to reauthorize your

Core on a five-year basis, annual requirements for the new Core Facilities grant program and the user fee policy.

- ARL, Innovation Campus, and Economic Development efforts
  - VP Carter shared the announcement for 87,000 square foot building was submitted to the City for the MSU innovation campus, a joint partnership between MSU and the Foundation.
  
- Graduate F&A re-investment program
  - VP Carter updated the final number of the Graduate Education re-investment program back to PIs was \$420,000. They can reinvest into their graduate students, their research programs or at their discretion.
  - The number of graduate enrollment has been up. There is some bump in the doctoral enrollment. The Graduate retention pattern look encouraging. The GradCat360 and other efforts start to create an environment for our graduates to feel part of the community.
  
- Tentative FY22 priorities and input
  - The President has matched one to one (\$300,000 out of F&A Pool and \$300,000 from her office), which gives us \$600,000 for the Core Facilities Program.
  - Office of Research Development will be a lean centralized unit to help coordinate these activities across the centers, departments and colleges. It will be the network of research development with continued decentralized investments from REDGE.
  - Strategic Investment in Grand Challenges - there is an opportunity to continue to make some strategic investments around the grand challenges.
  
  - Faculty and Staff Retention – More than just about salaries. There needs to be a sense of direction, sense of appreciation. We will try to emphasize those and culture of morale to acknowledge what they do does matter, and continue to make strides on compensation.
  - ARL & Innovation Campus- The building is filling up. It means for the future of applied research at Montana State and the Innovation Campus.
  
  - Action item- Ron June would like to know more about the number of Disclosure. VP Carter will have Daniel Juliano to check on that.

- Blake Wiedenheft questioned if there's a committee identified faculty across campus that is appropriate for some international award? No, but agreement this should be a priority between VPREDGE and Provost office. More discussion required.
  - Ron June mentioned the Academic Analytic program. VP Carter added we have the data from this program but no committee. Dean and Department heads have access to log on. There are many faculty that are primed for award nomination. We will give some more thoughts and talk about that more.
  
- Nikki Tuss brought up the University contract policy that is being proposed and Had a conversation with Kellie Peterson on utilizing it.
  
- Other/future items?
  - Please email VP Carter or Mai on topics that need to be discussed.

Meeting adjourned at 4:59 p.m.

**Next Research Council Meeting: September 22<sup>th</sup>, 2021 3:30 pm**