

Research Council Minutes
June 3rd, 2020
3:30 pm – 4:30 pm
WebEx

VOTING:

Jason Carter
Rollin Beamish
Mary Cloninger
Ron June
Brent Peyton/Robin Gerlach
Nic Rae
William Ruff

Alice Running
Colin Shaw
Nicole Tuss
Blake Wiedenheft
Carl Yeoman
Nicholas Childs

NON-VOTING:

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

VP Carter called for the approval of the May 20th minutes. Carl Yeoman pointed out that there was minor correction. The survey has already been conducted but intend to use it to have a conversation. Carl moved to approve the minutes; Ron June seconded, and the minutes were approved unanimously.

AGENDA:

1. Effort Memo, Summer Salary, and IPR modifications

VP Carter provided an explanation for the additional attestation form when charging greater than 2.5 months of summer salary on grant funding. The form is needed to reduce the audit risk and to help faculty understand the terms and conditions in their awards relative to time worked. It is meant to clarify the expectation that no other projects and proposals can be worked on during that same timeframe.

Ron June asked questions on:

- a. When will the final IPR revision form be released? *HR is working on the modification, with goal of releasing by July 1st.*
- b. Regarding these changes, will there be an increase beyond the original 25% of the academic salary that was allowed or not? *The salary still is the same but the 25% hold-back has been eliminated which will allow faculty to move research to the academic year without financial hit when compared to summer salary compensation.*
- c. Does the original language on IPR require you to have 3 months of summer salary? *Leslie Schmidt confirmed that the IPR was only for the academic year, that summer Salary was completely a different program.*

VP Carter asked the Research Council to share the message that there's no problem to request the full three months of summer salary, but PI's will need to sign the attestation form if they are requesting more than 2.5 months. IPR program has been expanded to eliminate a 25% hold back so PIs will be able to charge up to 25% of their IBS to the project and will get the full 25% back.

2. ePCF modifications for FY21 – New features include shared expenditures and credit for institutes/centers.

VP Carter thanked Leslie Schmidt and Ken Kurtenbach for working on the shared expenditures and credits for institutes/centers beginning on July 1st. For the shared expenditures feature a budget tab was modified to include expanded budget categories and now has both a single investigator budget option and a multi tab option to put in as many department or PI's as needed. For the credit for institutes/centers, there is a drop-down menu for the primary Centers and Institutes to be selected where PI's want to credit institutes/centers. Percentages can be allocated to the various institutes/centers up to 100% and the corresponding expenditures will be reported quarterly.

Ron asked if the Topaz program will be updated into the ePCF? *Leslie confirmed that the two software systems will not work together. We can keep looking at that possibility to reduce burden for everyone.*

Robin Gerlach asked how the change will be handle for reallocation afterwards? *You will have the opportunity to change those allocations as new budget cycles are awarded, but we can't go back retroactively to a previous fiscal year.*

Mary Cloninger added that Cores Facilities directors suggested to have a checkbox on ePCF for people to plan their budget early. VP Carter has had conversations already with the Deans on this and will be exploring that process next year for a Core Facility process.

3. Clarifications on 6- vs. 12-mo LOAs; other HR questions?

The Commissioners Office agreed to approve 12 month LOA on 100% Federal Research Grants funded. All positions sourced from other grants or other funding will be limited to 6 months.

4. Other/Future Topics?

VP Carter asked Carl Yeoman to update the conversation on Centers & Institutes and the large collaborative grants at upcoming RC meeting. Carl Yeoman would like Center of Faculty Excellence to present to Research Council on this.

Craig Ogilvie asked for input from the group on the concern from graduate students for the progress toward the degrees being delayed during this unprecedented time. There was a conversation with department heads about the idea to be flexible on what gets included in the thesis dissertation

Blake Wiedenheft supported there is alternative way to get data and faculty will look for new opportunities to help the student to graduate.

Robin added that COVID-19 has caused a lot of emotional and mental stress. He was wondering about mechanisms to help with benefits or sick leave policies.

Michael Brody commented that the MUS Healthy Fall 2020 has a section on mental health of faculty and students.

Colin Shaw added that for field research you do what you can to collect data and it's possible to do a field-based projects using data that's been collected by others.

Mary Cloninger suggested having a committee meeting between students to discuss with their advisor on potential adjustments of the project based on field work or lab work to get some additional input on how much of the project needs to be completed in order for the student to feel successful in their research.

VP Carter concluded the meeting by thanking the Committee for the great feedback. For future discussions, he would like to revisit about the representation of the committee. The next Research Council will be in August.

The meeting adjourned at 4:30 pm.

Next Research Council Meeting: August 26th, 2020 3:30 pm