

Research Council Minute
February 26th, 2020
3:00pm – 5:00pm
President's Conference Room

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

1. The minutes from the Jan. 29 meeting were approved as submitted.
2. Announcements
 - a. FBI workshop set for tomorrow; focus on foreign influence issues.
 - b. Proposed updates to the OCHE process for C/I proposals will be proposed at the March Board of Regents meeting. The new process will allow proposed new centers and institutes to be vetted much earlier.
 - c. The University Senate unanimously approved the Center on Science, Technology, Ethics & Society.
 - d. Montana Reality Lab will host an open house on Wednesday, March 11, 1-5 p.m. in Cheever Hall. They are hoping to have three or four faculty members in attendance to showcase research and the lab itself.
3. Updates from four RC subcommittees: final recommendations to be submitted at March meeting
 - a. **Center and Institutes** – Brent suggests obtaining/providing a short synopsis or snapshot for each, including funding and reporting. Then it should be easy to determine if some should be sunsetted.
 - Draft snapshots were prepared for The Thermal Biology Institute and Center for Biofilm Engineering.
 - Craig Ogilvie would like each synopsis to include data about undergrad and grad student participation.
 - Snapshots could be submitted through each center or institute's home department – which ever is most strongly affiliated.
 - With a five-year historical trend, we can get a general idea of the trajectory of each
 - Include more emphasis on awards (anticipated or pending?)
 - Committee./Jason to come up with a common template; Leslie Schmidt and REDGE office to help coordinate attainment of this information from Center/Institute directors
 - b. **Core Facilities** – Committee wishes to host two listening sessions – dates not yet set, but aiming for early- to mid-March (ASAP before NCUR)
 - Colin working on questions so we can best obtain the info we want
 - How does Core Facility maintain status as VPREDGE-affiliated – or not
 - Identify target audience – existing CF directors and users
 - Appendix from 2017 lists centers; are there new CFs that have come online since then?
 - Jason will ping all deans and coordinate with Leslie
 - Add online questionnaire for those who cannot attend
 - Honors College would love to get more students into labs, facilities
 - c. **Graduate Research** – “Train the Trainer” mentoring event set for Aug. 18-19.
 - 70+ names recommended; hoping to get 25 to participate.

- Invitations to go out this week.
 - Nika Stoop has previous experience running workshops like this.
 - The committee will meet again tomorrow (2/27) to discuss diversity/ inclusion.
 - 2020 competitive call for matching for GREs – institutionally funded; internally awarded
- d. **Large Collaborative Projects:** Alice’s group is making very little progress.
- Would like to work with Center for Faculty Excellence
 - Jayne mentioned that Liz Shanahan conducted a faculty survey – another avenue for conversation?
4. Internal Grant Program Discussion: Jason presented information about examples of expenditure rates over the past three years
- Looking at award amount, balance, year – one measure of success
 - HASS and REF dollars are sitting on the sidelines; S&C grants have been spending more consistently
 - Extension policy is not in place – need to develop a philosophy with boundaries and ground rules; need backing of Research Council before making changes. Need to do a better job of setting expectations and ensuring accountability.
 - Looking to provide post-award support; simplify the process; provide burn-rate projections on every project
 - Use Catbooks as tool (not Banner). It provides weekly, monthly or quarterly automatic notifications.
 - Ron June mentioned that RC needs to have a discussion on Chrome River. Can be time-consuming for some; may save time for others
5. Office of Research Development: Slide presentation on EAB – Helping Faculty Achieve Their Full Research Potential, including five pillars to enhance research enterprises:
- Funding
 - Communication
 - Infrastructure
 - Administration
 - Faculty
- Jason will make this entire slide presentation available to all, along with the full 97-page report.
 - Bill Ruff asked how we can tap into pockets where people are already successfully implementing these ideas – can we engage them?
 - Research Development Day – use our own talent
6. Other Items/Future Discussion?
- Jayne suggested getting groups of faculty together; open for conversation; create opportunities for collaboration
 - David Singel previously attended a mentoring institute; regular discussion can achieve recognition and build capacity

Meeting adjourned 4:40 p.m.

**Next Research Council Meeting: March 18th, 2020 3:00 pm
President’s Conference Room, Montana Hall**