

Research Council Minutes
September 23rd, 2020
3:30 pm – 5:00 pm
WebEx

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/Eric Austin	Nicholas Childs

NON-VOTING:

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

AGENDA:

VP Carter called meeting order at 3:30 pm and introduced today's special guest, Christina Fastnow.

1. Review and approval of August minutes; general announcements

- There's no announcement for major awards from colleges/departments. VP Carter reported that FY21 expenditures are up for July and August compared to FY20.
- Jayne Morrow and other health faculty have done a remarkable effort in putting together two \$1 million COVID proposals in a short time for the Governor's special call.
- VP Carter called for approval of the minutes. Mary Miles pointed out for correction from the last meeting minutes regarding affiliation (i.e., College of EHHD). Motion to approve the minutes by Blake Wiedenheft, Sarah Shannon seconded. The minutes approved.

2. Strategic Plan metrics for Grand Challenges (C. Fastnow, guest)

- Chris Fastnow shared background of strategic planning and asked Research Council to look at Goal 2.1.2. We need to define the action of these outcome measures. Because of the disruption this year, either timeline or content need to be adjusted. The question is how RC feels about how the measure should be? Chris asked for Research Council to consider an ad hoc committee for the insight, what we might define as some external outcome measures.
- Sarah Shannon suggested one measure of outcome on health equity or food security.
- Brent Peyton questioned where is the measurement area, only in Montana? Chris Fastnow replied that MT impact is the specific metrics.
- Blake Wiedenheft suggested that food bank would be one metric to measure. There are a number of programs that are actively being developed that can address issues. Colin Shaw provided examples of how a food bank could be both an appropriate and inappropriate indicator.
- Robin Gerlach thought that we can measure from number of publications, number of faculty involved, number of initiatives, where we want to prove our success and what

impact on the community. Chris Fastnow suggested there may be a way to do this, but also that other strategic plan metrics might address this.

- VP Carter asked if there was support to pursue an ad hoc group to take this on. There was general support for this. VP Carter asked Chris to have this extended to end of spring semester of 2021.

3. Feedback on Research Continuity WebEx and future sessions

- The September WebEx featured Jayne Morrow, Al Deibert and Lee Spangler regarding a conversation on how to steward federal relations. Additionally, Valerie Copie, Sarah Codd and Mark Quinn presented on how to engage with industry partners and foundation. VP Carter asked for feedback?
 - Robin Gerlach shared that he learned more about federal appropriations process and would like the session to recur yearly as it will be helpful for the new faculty.
- VP Carter asked for any topics to be consider for the future Research Continuity session? He plans to talk about COVID and levels of operation and mitigation plan.
 - Robin Gerlach suggested a session focus on equipment proposals, pre-award, core facility, writing grants.
 - Brent Peyton also suggested alignment with federal delegation priorities, information that will be helpful for researchers to stimulate ideas to have a higher chance of getting the support.

4. Federal Relations process and memo (J. Morrow)

- Jayne Morrow pointed out that we need to provide enough guidance and be more inclusive to have faculty understand and engage with the federal relations process.
- Mary Miles agreed it would be helpful to see some examples of how the proposal went forward and to see some of those successful proposals.
- Ron June suggested adding on the memo for the partnership collaboration in the State of Montana.

5. Update on Animal Resources Center user fee discussions

- VPREDGE and ARC leadership are having a conversation to modify and build sustainable user fee for ARC by charging federal grants to support and take care of the animals. The purpose is to make a modification to those rates.
- The VPREDGE office will allow for active sponsored projects or a pending project to request a supplement so funded projects are not penalized. When future grants are submitted, the new rates should be incorporated. To give people time to build that in the new grants, the new rate will be begin in January.
- VP Carter hoped that RC can attend the ARC stakeholders meeting that Sandy Sward is hosting, she is going to help the PIs scope the budget and the rate adjustment.

6. Sub-committee for Spring Convocation awards

- VP Carter asked Research Council to help judging the following three Spring Convocation awards.
 - Fox Faculty award
 - Vice President for Research's Meritorious Technology/Science Award
 - Charles and Nora Wiley Award for Meritorious Research and Creativity

- Last year we developed a scoring rubric that worked well. After receiving reviews and recommendations, the sub-committee is asked to vote.
- Please email us if you are willing to serve on the sub-committee to review these awards. The awards deadline is November 15th, and will need rapid turnaround reviews.

7. Other and/or Future Topics

- Suggestion was made to consider an OSP brown bag session that would bring some faculty together to talk about the differences of Modular budget versus Non-Modular budget.
- Jayne updated on a couple of events; the first virtual research-related workshop series, Securing Montana's Future offered from noon to one p.m. on Oct. 26-30.
- Another event we are working to schedule is 8x8 talk on COVID-19 which will be eight of the faculty who are part of the COVID Research efforts.

The meeting adjourned at 5 pm.

Next Research Council Meeting: October 29th, 2020 3:30 pm