

Research Council Minutes

January 18, 2023

3:30 – 5:00 p.m.

VOTING:

Alison Harmon

Mary Miles

Mary Cloninger/Robert Walker

Ron June

Brent Peyton/Robin Gerlach

Eric Austin

Molly Secor Turner

Brian Gillespie

Michael Reidy

Jennifer Thomson

Sreekala Bajwa

Colin Shaw

Nicole Tuss

Blake Wiedenheft

Carl Yeoman

Elizabeth Olson

Jonmichael Weaver

Amanda Haab

Greg Young

NON-VOTING:

Craig Ogilvie

Chris Kearns

Terry Leist

Robert Mokwa/Durward Sobek

Sandra Sward

Ryan Knutson

Liz Shanahan

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- Approval of November 2022 Minutes- Minutes moved to approve by Mary Miles; seconded by Ron June. Minutes were approved.
 - Introductions and news from the field (All)
 - Montana Recovery Resource Symposium supported by FEMA will be held in Helena on January 25th-learn about potential funding for Disaster relief-related projects.
 - The College of Engineering's three-minute thesis competition will be at 1:30 pm on February 15th at the Inspiration Hall. The College of Education, Health and Human Development will be on March 21st at 3:30 pm.
 - The Graduate Student Leadership Council is hosting the Spring Picnic and Forum on January 19th at 4:00 pm at the SUB.
 - F&A Reinvestments in MSU Research FY23 Overview (Tawnya Morgan, Alison Harmon)
Tawnya Morgan shared the FY 23 commitments- how F&A reinvestment is redistributed across campus.
 - Faculty Support 16% (Bridge Funding, Faculty Startup, Research Support, IRD)
 - College & Institute Support 29% (College & Unit support, Core facilities, Programs support, Institution match)
 - Awards 3% (Internal Awards)
 - Building Expenses 42% (Campus- off-campus leases, overhead, maintenance, renovations equipment)
 - Fixed Commitments 10% (Membership dues, fees, Ops for RED, OSP, ORC, ORD)
 - The expenditure in Qtr. 2 is up 10% compared to last year, but the F&A is lower than projected. We should be able to show the accurate number at the end of the fiscal year.

- Office of Research Development Update (Liz Shanahan, Nicole Motzer)

Dr. Liz Shanahan reminded us about the internal grants' due dates (S&C and REF due on February 21st, HASS due on February 13th). Also, another reminder that the Proposal Enhancement Grant Program (PEG) is an internal source of funding available from the Office of Research Development. https://www.montana.edu/research/peg_program.html

 - Research Development Day Reflections- great positive feedback. The focus for next year is to get an early career to attend, which will work directly with the department head.
 - Bring different people for different sessions each year.
 - Great opportunities to engage postdoc trainees.
 - Another idea is getting some industry to talk about the Research industry to integrate the pipeline for the research enterprise.

- Graduate School Update (C Ogilvie)
 - Dean Craig Ogilvie asked for feedback on postdoc support: the salary data from Fall 2022 is 30% below \$50k. The rationale of a minimum salary should be above \$50K to attract and retain strong candidates, high-level PhD performance, etc. Proposed options for minimum stipend:
 - Campus-wide minimum ex. NIH minimum.
 - The salary level for assistant professors, ex. 66% of 9 months => 12 months postdoc minimum stipend.
 - If the grant doesn't have enough money to support a minimum stipend. There is the option of appointing to <1.0 FTE.
 - Need recommendation/guidance:
 - Time limit on a postdoc. Maximum of 5 years. Beyond that will require an appointment for a staff or faculty position.
 - Find ways to build up community events and improve the life of Postdocs and better support professional development.

- Updates on Research Council Goals for 2022-23 (All)
 - VP Harmon reported about convening a task force with a variety of faculty and staff last November on how to enhance and expand the opportunities in undergraduate research. Then, followed up with a meeting with a group of students to brainstorm.

Short-term initiatives:

 - Increasing student research stipend to better compete with off-campus employment opportunities.
 - Provide additional funding for USP projects.
 - Revamp the existing websites for undergraduate research opportunities for easily found.
 - Create flyers for undergraduate research opportunities for faculty to distribute.
 - Provide faculty training for mentoring UG students in research.

Long-term initiatives:

- Form an Undergraduate Research Coordinating Committee
 - Build an Undergraduate research hub to coordinate programs and opportunities.
 - Create a new leadership position for coordination, student mentoring and grant writing.
 - Ensure the Undergraduate Research is integrated into the Research Alliance partnership in the MSU library space.
 - Colin Shaw shared this has been a long vision to make things easier for students and looking for more thoughts/collaboration on undergraduate research expansion.
- “Gift or Grant?” decision tree (Sandy Sward and Kirk Lubick)
 - There is confusion about funds: Is it a “gift” or is it a “grant”?
 - Office of Research Compliance developed “Gift vs Grant Decision tree” to help clear up some of the confusion.
 - Draft of MSU-AF/OSP Pass-Through process to clarify bridging MSUAF and OSP.
 - Terms and Conditions determine where the fund needs to be administered.
 - Gifts- Received and Administered by the Alumni Foundation
 - Grant/Contract- Received and Administered by RED, OSP and ORC related.
 - We are developing stronger communication with the Alumni Foundation.
 - We need to improve awareness of PIs on this process.
- Please let us know any topics you would like to discuss for the next meeting.

Next Meeting: February 15, 2023 President’s Conference Room