Research Council Minutes

October 1st, 2025
3:30pm – 5:00pm

President's Conference Room

VOTING:		NON-VOTING:
Alison Harmon	Sreekala Bajwa	Deborah Haynes
Mary Miles	Anna Tuttle	Steve Swinford/Michael Ouert
Mary Cloninger	Nicole Tuss	Terry Leist
Ron June	Jeff Heys	Robert Mokwa
Darin Boss	Blake Wiedenheft	Durward Sobek
Kristen Intemann	Eric Sproles	Ryan Knutson/
Molly Secor Turner	Maksym Makarchuk	Coltran Hophan-Nichols
Maritza Espina	Tracy Gatlin	Becca Belou
Doralyn Rossmann	James Park	Carl Yeoman
Monica Skewes	Mary Alice Carlson	Kirk Lubick
Anja Kunze		Quinton King
		Alyssa Harmel

Welcome and Introductions

- Research Council Minutes were sent via email. Please let us know of any errors.
- Research Council documents can be accessed in SharePoint.

MSU Research Information Items:

- FY 2025 IDC commitments-- Alison Harmon
    - Revisit the Research Expenditures Report FY 25
    - DoD has the biggest research expenditure, 47%
    - Research Funding source FY25, Federal 92%
    - The Research Expenditures Overview will be on the webpage
    - Positive news – Q1 expenditures are increasing compared to last year at 28%
    - New awards reached approximately $21M
    - Government Shutdown, but OSP was able to draw money from the federal systems
    - Submitted proposals through the NIH System, NSF, and USDA and were accepted.

- Proposal: Montana Geospatial Insights and Solutions Institute (MT-GIS)-- Eric Sproles and Anna Schweiger

- MT-GIS proposal is in review process. Presenting to the Academic Council scheduled for November.
- MSU aims to strengthen partnerships with local government and agencies for practical applications of GIS
- Faculty collaboration is encouraged to integrate geospatial data into diverse disciplines, enhancing educational offerings and industry collaboration in geospatial sciences.
- The university plans to develop online courses and certificates in geospatial studies to meet student needs.
- Explore the possibility of collaborating with Gallatin College to create educational programs or certificates related to geospatial sciences.
- Provides crash courses or entry points for grad and undergrad students to brush up on GIS and coding skills.

Discussion Topic:

- MSU Research Impact Stories—Mike Veselik
    - Reminder to share ideas or stories that have an impact on our lives and in Montana
    - More robust conversation on research impact in November
    - Submit white papers for federal initiatives by November 1st and ensure all relevant faculty are aware of the submission process.

Research Policies and Procedures:

- Research Misconduct Policy—Kirk Lubick
    - The US government made some changes on how the institutions should be handling research misconduct.
    - MSU last revised its Research Misconduct Policy in November 2023
    - 42 CFR Part 93 has been updated, and changes must be incorporated into Institutional policy by January 2026
    - Revised Policy to improve and refine.
    - Research Misconduct Process:
        1. Receipt and Preliminary Assessment of Allegation- Fabrication, Falsification, or Plagiarism
        2. Inquiry – changed from 60 days to 90 days
        3. Investigation- gathering evidence, interviewing individuals by RIC
        4. Decision- used to be Research Integrity Officer, New proposed policy, decision will be VPRED
    - Changes in appeal processes aim to streamline procedures while providing adequate opportunities for responses.

- ➢ Updates were made based off NIH's office of Research Integrity (ORI) Guidance Document and discussions.
- ➢ Currently gathering feedback from other councils and faculty groups regarding the proposal changes to the research misconduct policy.

- Conflict of Interest Policy--- Kirk Lubick
  - ➢ Communicate with faculty about the new conflict of interest policy revision, especially concerning international collaborations
  - ➢ Agencies require disclosure of affiliation with researchers from countries of concern.
  - ➢ Monitor and refine the process based on questions and feedback received during the first year of implementing NSPM 33 disclosures.
  - ➢ National Security Presidential Memorandum (NSPM33) elements: Cybersecurity, Foreign Travel Security, Research Security, Export Control, Conflict of Interest Disclosures.
  - ➢ Conflict of Interest focuses on transparency and disclosure of any research collaborations, affiliations, or partnerships outside the United States.
  - ➢ Proposed addition to section 520.40: Foreign Government or Entity Affiliations.
    - ❖ *Funding received from any foreign government or entity, any courtesy or honorary appointments that are held at other institutions and any participation with any foreign talent program and any affiliation, partnerships or research collaborations, with institutions, organizations, or individual researchers outside the United States.*
  - ➢ Institutions must document relationships for compliance; failure may jeopardize DoD funding.

Announcements from RED:

- Research Development
  - o DARPA CONNECT event debrief
    - ▪ Thrust areas, new funding mechanisms and application platforms
  - o New separate InfoReady workflows for requests for:
    - ▪ VPR cost share (not encouraged; only when necessary and following a rigorous internal review by multiple units)
    - ▪ Institutional support letters from the VPR
- Sponsored Programs
  - o New research administration software from InfoEd expected to be launched in September with an 18-month implementation timeline.
- Research Integrity & Compliance—already covered in this agenda.
- Research Security
  - o In the coming months, certain Federal Sponsors are anticipated to require Research Security Training certification to accompany new proposals. Research Security Training is available on Canvas. For more information on how to access, contact John

Harrison [john.harrison1@montana.edu] or Quinton King [quinton.king@montana.edu].

- o Section 216 of the Senate version of the National Defense Authorization Act for FY26 includes a prohibition against contracts or affiliations with certain foreign entities, specifically foreign academic institutions identified within the "1286 List". If passed in current form, such contracts or affiliations would potentially risk current and/or future Dept. Of Defense funding to MSU.
- Economic Development:
  - o White papers for federal appropriations are due to VPRED office (shared folder) by November 1st.
- Undergraduate Research:
  - o New program to assist new faculty with nominal start-up funds hire work-study students.
  - o The Honors Research Symposium is now open by application to ALL students.
  - o Curiositas submissions are open for a few more weeks

Other Announcements:

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Research Events: RED TEAM please add any additional events

Idea Incubator: Brainstorming Creative Research Ideas: Thursday, October 2, 2025, 9:00am - 11:00am; MSU Library Room 324, Research Alliance

CORE DAY: Friday October 3, 8:45am-3:30pm; SUB Ballrooms. Please RSVP: Core Day 2025 - Office of Research & Economic Development | Montana State University

Virtual Info Session: NIH MIRA (R35) ESI: Wednesday, November 12, 2025, 1:30pm - 2:30pm. Attendees must register.

COMING EVENTS: 994 Journeys - Office of Research & Economic Development | Montana State University

- ➤ Seth Walk, Monday October 20, 4pm; SUB 233
- ➤ Devon Orme, Monday December 1, 4pm; SUB 233
- ➤ Nick Lux, Monday January 26, 4pm; SUB 233
- ➤ Catherine Kirkland, Monday February 9, 4pm; SUB 233
- ➤ Jason Bolte, Monday March 30, 4pm; SUB 233