

Research Council Agenda
January 20, 2021
3:30pm – 5:00pm
via 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/Durward Sobek
Leslie Schmidt
Jonathan Hilmer
Jayne Morrow
Liz Shanahan

Minutes

- Review and approval of minutes
 - VP Carter called the meeting to order at 3:30 pm. VP Carter called for approval of the minutes for December 10, 2020. Nikki Tuss asked to rephrase the sentence on section C. to be “to choose how the project work aligns with the Grand Challenges.”
 - VP Carter moved to accept the friendly amendment, Nikki seconded and the minutes were approved unanimously.
- Brief Announcements
 - Welcome to Liz Shanahan
 - VP Carter welcomed Dr. Liz Shanahan, the new Associate VP for Research Development. Dr. Liz will be involved with centers/institutes, core facilities programs, as well as helping with the internal grants program. She and Jayne Morrow will be working together on different research development efforts.
 - Dr. Shanahan thanked everyone for the welcoming messages. She’s looking forward to working with the team.
 - Q2 update; COBRE and other recent grant efforts

- VP Carter was pleased to report that the expenditures are up 14% from the end of FY20 and our new sponsored research awards saw a 32% increase from the end of FY 20.
 - VP Carter congratulated to Ron June for submitting the COBRE application and asked him to share thoughts on the effort.
 - Ron June shared timeline of working with the COBRE application. He has been meeting with Junior Project leaders weekly as well as with Mark Jutila, Mark Quinn, and Allen Harmsen, who have experience with this application. It's also helpful to coordinate a lot of Institutional supports with other NIH IDeA programs to get this moving forward.
 - VP Carter introduced Durward Sobek, a new RC member representative from the office of the Provost.
 - Blake Wiedenheft asked about the next COBRE lined up in the future?
 - VP Carter didn't send out a call yet, but plans to do it in February/March to solicit teams to do white papers. Then we will make the determination for the January 2022 cycle.
- Federal Relations update (J. Carter/J. Morrow)
 - Jayne Morrow shared the overview of the FY21 appropriations process-Lee Spangler and Dan Miller have been engaged in helping several of our successes from Energy and Department of Defense.
 - There is a strong support in MilTech, TechLink and Quantum Science. Jayne is working with Liz Shanahan and Nika Stoop to facilitate a discussion on how to grow out our Research capability in Quantum.
 - We saw the new funding of \$8M in manufacturing to increase our work within the ARL related to the National Nuclear Security Administration in collaboration with LANL.
 - There are multiple bills that we work with the delegation and had success across the board in 2021.
 - Jayne also gave the current review of the white papers for FY 22 appropriations. She has been working on generating the partnerships with other institutions and the federal agencies to make our priorities impactful and visible with the delegation.

- VP Carter added that MSU did well on steward partnership with federal organizations. He asked the RC to please encourage the faculty to keep learning about the appropriations process.
- COVID Fireside Chat on Thurs, Jan. 21.
 - VP Carter shared that COVID Fireside Chat will be on Thursday, Jan. 21. It's a virtual panel discussion in COVID research. The event is co-hosted by VPREDGE and the MSU Alumni Foundation.
- Bi-weekly Payroll Reminder/Update
 - VP Carter reminded the team that last monthly paycheck will be on March 11. The Bi-weekly payroll will be starting on March 24. Due to the timing of the transition, there are going to be some adjustments on the last monthly paycheck by 10.5 hours to prevent overpayment.
- Institutional Research & Development Funds (J. Carter/L. Schmidt)
 - Leslie Schmidt updated about the Institutional Research & Development (IRD). The program is for PIs who include and pay GRA salaries from OSP funding sources; they will receive 15% return of F&A collected by expenditures on graduate students to a maximum of \$10,000. The IRD document has been widely distributed across campus.
 - Jason added that this is a way to support graduate growth which is part of our strategic plan and this will be an opportunity to have some discretionary funds to cover small costs that come up.
 - Colin Shaw asked for a clarification on timing of the accumulation.
 - VP Carter confirmed the accumulations based on the expenditure of that semester. We will make the calculation from the final cost, then do the distribution one month after the semester ends.
- Complexities Surrounding Graduate Student Benefits (C. Ogilvie)
 - Dean Ogilvie shared instruction from OCHE that paying for health insurance wasn't to be part of GTA appointments for Graduate Students. They are not considered employees by OCHE and the health insurance is to be considered an employee benefit.
 - The Graduate school is working with MUS on a new RFP for insurance to see what we can do to make it possible for students to have good insurance packages.

- The health insurance plan that the students can get from Montana State System is Montana State Wide Student insurance for single students only; no dependents. The Montana State System is going to issue RFP to see if there are other insurance companies that might want to compete. It is hoped that the students will be able to add dependents and different levels.
 - Craig encourages students about the sign-up opportunities for ACA (aka Obamacare).
 - The Graduate School is working with the Office of International Students to explore third party companies provide an insurance package for international students which will meet all the visa requirements.
 - Brent Peyton questioned if there are any discussions on supplemental insurance to help students who may have clinical depression when they can't do their responsibilities as GTA or GRA.
 - Craig shared that there was a Dean of Students emergency fund that went out to some graduate students and he has worked closely with financial aid to distribute that money. He hasn't heard about whether the new funding will be coming, but he is expecting it will go through the financial aid office.
 - Robin Gerlach asked, how do we deal with the physical issue or emotional issue that prevents them from performing work on grants on time?
 - Craig added that there is some flexibility in terms of the collective bargaining agreement. The number of hours is an average number that students have to be on task. If the graduate students couldn't teach, but basically found someone else to take an hour, then it can be worked out on average in the graduate appointment. On another challenge, if the condition takes a longer period, we don't have anything to cover students who can't work in those longer periods. We also don't have an easy way to provide support for childbirth or adoption events.
 - VP Carter thanked Dean Ogilvie for his work on this issue.
- Limited Submissions Process – Now and Future (J. Carter/L. Schmidt)
 - VP Carter asked Research Council to give advice to develop general practice procedures where we can issue limited submission calls in advance. Then we have a policy in place where we can define a period of time when we are made aware of a limited call. The question is what the amount of time where we should provide the office discretion. We want to be transparent and equitable, where everybody knows what the rules of engagement are.

- VP Carter will be working to get a draft wording around this process and bring back to this group to review.
 - Leslie updated on the establishing the pool for sick and vacation leave; we selected Huron as our consultant. This has been moving forward quickly. After discussion with them, she will be able to report back to the group.
 - Leslie shared another update on the selected committee to work on the Core Facilities/Service Center RFP: David Dickensheets, Mary Cloninger, Colin Shaw, Kath Hardcastle, Jonathan Hilmer, Martin Lawrence, Liz Shanahan and herself. The vendors have responded back. The committee is going to discuss and evaluate the vendors. The most qualified will be selected and move forward.
- Other?
 - No other additional updates

**Next Research Council Meeting: February 24, 2021 3:30 pm
Via WebEx**