

**Research Council Minutes**  
**September 22, 2021**  
**3:30pm – 5:00pm**

**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	Nicholas Childs
Molly Secor Turner	

**NON-VOTING:**

Craig Ogilvie  
Chris Kearns/ Jim Mitchell  
Terry Leist  
Robert Mokwa/Durward Sobek  
Leslie Schmidt  
Ryan Knutson  
Jayne Morrow  
Liz Shanahan

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Meeting called to order at 3:29 pm

1. Review and approval of minutes
  - Dean Craig Ogilvie requested a change of the minutes on the section of the Graduate Education update to “*seven departments had a greater than 10% increased*”. The minutes were approved.
2. Brief Updates/Announcements
  - a. Welcome Ryan Knutson to RC
    - VP Carter Welcomed VP for information technology and chief information officer Ryan Knutson to the Research Council committee.
  - b. Significant awards and other scholarly accomplishments in past month
    - VP Carter announced Dr. Raina Plowright received \$4M from DARPA and, \$3M from NSF Rules of light. Dr. Brent Peyton won \$3M from the NSF Research Traineeship award. Dr. Joe Shaw won \$3.5M with a group of collaborators from AFRL on photonics & optics Research.
    - VP Carter asked RC for feedback on the bi-weekly newsletter email. It focuses on promoting scholarships, news releases, and announcements, especially on the arts and social sciences and Economic Development Story, which will lead to interdisciplinary collaborations across campus. He gave credit to Mary Pat, who has done a great job of creating high-quality work.
    - Dr. Colin Shaw asked if the bi-weekly newsletters are archived on the REDGE website.

- VP Carter appreciated the suggestion and will work with Mary Pat to archive the REDGE newsletters.
- c. Upcoming NSF, NIH and OSP trainings; NIH two-factor authentication
- Leslie Schmidt shared NSF and NIH are offering virtual workshops for all faculty. The communication about workshops and training dates has been emailed out with the Funding Opportunities announcement.
  - She alerted RC that there were missing steps on the instruction email for NIH two factors authentication process. The revised instruction email will be sent out shortly.
- d. State inquiry on procurement limits
- Leslie Schmidt updated on the procurement limits request for micro threshold level from \$5,000 to \$10,000. It, unfortunately, wasn't approved but we will keep working on it.
- e. ORD director search
- Dr. Liz Shanahan shared that we will bring in the top two external candidates to campus on October 4 and October 6 and give a public forum for a brief vision of the office of Research Development.
- f. BOR meeting update
- VP Carter and Scott Whittenberg gave research updates at the last BOR meeting. The BOR asked to have the University of Montana and Montana State University present research activities every meeting.
  - VP Carter asked Dr. Michael Brody to share an update from the Faculty Senate. Dr. Brody noted that the meeting will be tomorrow with Nika Stoop to talk about the faculty affairs committee to help promote the interdisciplinary efforts.
3. US Innovation and Compete Act (USICA) and other Federal Updates
- VP Carter updated about USICA (US Innovation and Competition Act). There was a discussion to have Technology Centers of Excellence at Universities. Senator Tester successfully put through an amendment that at least one of the Tech HUBs will be in one of the rural five EPSCoR states that don't have a population greater than 200,000.
  - President Cruzado and VP Carter are hosting the USICA workshop on 9/23-9/24 for Presidents, Chancellors and VPRs from Wyoming, Idaho, North Dakota, South Dakota and Montana to build on the relationship and share their strengths around the areas outlined in the NSF, endless frontiers portion.
  - Dr. Jayne Morrow added SMI (Strategic Marketing Innovation) consultant firm will be coming on October 19 to Bozeman. They help expand the opportunities and influence some of the appropriations.
4. Strategic Plan -- progress and areas to put additional focus on
- VP Carter discussed the progress on what we need to do to reach the strategic plan's goal.

- Goal 2.1: Enhance the significance and impact of scholarship- VP Carter thought that we do a lot of research and scholarship that reflected on these four areas- caring for the environment, health and wellness, food and fuel security and securing the future of Montana.
- VP Carter asked Dr. Colin Shaw about the challenge to quantify undergraduate Research following *No. 3 Montana State University will enhance education of undergraduates and graduate students through increased participation in Research, creative, and entrepreneurial activities by 10% by 2022.*
- Dr. Shaw said that most of the undergraduate researchers are not within the confines of the program. We can track funding and the number of undergraduate researchers, but pulling in funded undergraduate researchers and sorting out from employment that doesn't qualify as research is a challenge.
- Dr. Blake Wiedenheft suggested considering the 490R Research Credit as a way to track those students. There are many advantages if the student participates and takes credits.
- Goal 2.2: Expand interdisciplinary Scholarship- VP Carter congratulated Dr. Brent Peyton on winning the award which helps achieve the metric 2.2.1.
- VP Carter shared that he is working with Dr. Weidenheft and Dr. Shanahan on a collaborative grant with University of Washington for our PhD program.
- Dr. Carl Yeoman mentioned the USDA –NIFA Centers of Excellence that he's working on that fits the metric from the Grand Challenge around Ag and Energy.
- VP Carter believes that we should meet the goal of the metric 2.2.2 already -- increase grant expenditures associated with investigators in multiple units by 25% by 2022. He asked Leslie Schmidt to confirm the quantification.
- Dr. Mary Miles thought that the academic analytics show data of scholarly products for metric 2.2.3.
- VP Carter thought that we achieved metric 2.2.4 with what Nika Stoop has put forward, to consolidate the Center of faculty excellence, Office of Research Development, Library resources into a facility space that is sustainable for interdisciplinary scholarship.
- Dr. Wiedenheft added that the CORE Facilities project also supports the metric 2.2.4.
- VP Carter will continue to work on the Strategic plan's goals. We will continue the discussion about goals 2.3 and 2.4 for the next meeting.

#### 5. Other topics/future items??

- Dr. Shaw mentioned the conversation of having an advisory group for undergraduate scholars in the past and would like to talk about it again.

- Dr. Shanahan suggested a conversation around parallel and shared expenditures to help better understand the difference between these two entities.

Meeting adjourned at 4:39 p.m.

**Next Research Council Meeting: October 28, 2021 3:30 pm**