

**PROFESSIONAL COUNCIL MEETING  
MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY  
WEDNESDAY January 28, 2009  
SUB ROOM 232  
1:30 PM – 2:30 PM**

**Members Present:** All PC members except: Jeff Davis was present for Jeff Butler & John Usher of the Burns Technology Center was present for Julie Tatarka while she is on maternity leave.

**Others Present:** Tom McCoy

***Tom McCoy, Vice President of Research, Creativity & Technology Transfer***

- Tom has been at MSU since 1989 starting in Plant Sciences. He's been VP of Research for 11 years. His responsibilities cover:
  - Technology Transfer – this department is headed by Becky Mahurin and covers patents, invention disclosures, & licensing technology. Currently there are about 160 active licenses, most of which are held by MT companies. At this point, they do not generate enough revenue to cover the costs of the department, which is the case at the vast majority of universities with technology transfer departments. Part of MSU's commitment to faculty is to have these services. When a faculty technology is licensed, revenue is shared 50/50 between the inventor & MSU; this is at the high end compared to other universities.
  - Office of Sponsored Programs – this department is headed by Leslie Schmidt and provides oversight over all MSU's grants and contracts. This includes pre-award activity (searching for funding opportunities for faculty), research compliance, and post-award activity (ensuring all expenditures are allowable and audit follow-up). Tom spends a lot of time searching for funding opportunities as well. Tom felt Governor Schweitzer's statement a couple of weeks ago regarding oversight of MSU federal grants was unfounded and hurtful to the employees of OSP who work very hard to provide more than ample oversight of ALL federal, state, foundation and other funding.
  - MSU is working on increasing partnerships with non-MSU entities for research projects. One major focus of this is Energy, energy efficiency, renewable energy & carbon sequestration, and this will likely grow with the Recovery & Reinvestment Act (stimulus package). In fact, Tom's view is that the stimulus package will have billions for research, and he is hoping that some of that will come to MSU PIs.
  - F&A Distribution – F&As are again being distributed. Retroactively to January 7, 2008 F&As will be distributed 5% to Deans, 10% to Departments, 5% to PIs, 20% to VP Research (for startup packages, etc), and 60% to Central Commitments (fixed costs – leases, department personnel, etc). The plan is to now analyze projected obligations and revenues for the upcoming fiscal year and provide an update letting research interests know what the distributions percentages will be for the entire year. There is an Investment Committee made up of the Vice Presidents who make recommendations to the President on investments of F&A funds. There is also an un-official committee that appears to be moving toward an official MSU committee that is a sounding board for VP McCoy on investments.

***Announcements – Chair Dettmann***

- During a meeting with President Gamble, he stated that:
  - There have in fact been layoffs at MSU but he doesn't expect more at this point; and
  - He has not yet given approval for an increase in parking fees.
- The next BOR meeting is in Helena March 5 & 6. Anyone interested in attending should contact Sheryl.

*Signature*

Sheryl Dettmann, Chair of Professional Council

*Signature*

Stacey Scott, Professional Council Member