I. Call to Order
The meeting was called to order by Chair Whitney Hinshaw.

II. Approval of Meeting Minutes
2.17.2021 minutes were unanimously approved

III. Public Comment
None

IV. New Business
a. Economic Development Successes

Jason Carter, Vice President of Research and Economic Development
- MSU spinoffs into private companies: biotech, optics/photonics, agriculture, software; software sector is growing in the MSU portfolio
- VIRIS Detection Systems – Blake Wiedenheft started two companies using CRISPR technology, $1.25M in seed grants, Board of Regents has to approve a 407 plan to manage conflicts of interest
- Women’s role in MSU inventorship (invention disclosures and patent filings) increasing substantially since 2015
- Tess Corbin – 2019 PhD in Chem/Biochem – working on chemically defined cell culture medium, inspired by her son’s rare genetic disorder
- Stephanie McCalla – licensing deal with FYR Diagnostics for fast COVID testing, first female MSU faculty member to win a $500,000 National Science Foundation CAREER Award licensing deal with FYR Diagnostics for fast COVID testing
- Technology Development – MSU’s primary goal is to help grow the Montana economy (part of our land grant mission)
- Licensing revenue helps pay for patent application expenses
- Coordination with Gallatin College – primarily to encourage workforce development for the new jobs being generated
• COVID has impacted women more than men, because women have taken on most of the childcare – VPREDGE office looks for seed grants and bridge grants for women and underrepresented faculty
• Very challenging to hire talented underrepresented faculty with Bozeman’s cost of living, so VPREDGE looks for ways to retain the talent MSU already has through supplemental funding

b. Staff Appreciation Boxes

Julie Clay
• Due to COVID social distancing and so many staff working remotely, many staff are struggling and feel disconnected – does ASC want to put together a Staff Appreciation Box for each staff member at MSU?
• Idea has been presented to President Cruzado and the Alumni Foundation; both gave favorable responses and may help financially
• March 1 is National Employee Appreciation Day – gives us a year to plan/implement
• Julie will talk to Faculty Senate to see if they want to participate – if they do, Faculty Senate will take care of faculty boxes
• Volunteer labor – will require many people, big undertaking
• Almost $12,000 left in budget for FY21 – typically money left in budget at end of fiscal year goes away, but ASC can request the money be moved into a board designated reserve to carry over to FY22 if we have a plan for the use of that money
• ASC will give money, Foundation may give $5k, ASC will ask President Cruzado for the rest
• Special Events Committee offered their budget funds; Professional Development Committee offered to come up with an inspirational saying that could be included in each box
• Andrus motioned to create a work group and use funds for Staff Appreciation Boxes, Dove seconded, Voice Vote: all in favor, none opposed

V. Previous Business

a. Staff Scholarships – Danica Weitz
• Applications are coming in
• Danica recusing herself because she is applying for a scholarship
• Need another council member(s) to take Danica’s place on scholarship committee – email Danica or Leslie if interested

b. Proposed Operating Agreement Changes – Julie Clay (on behalf of Nikki Tuss)
• Addition of DEI Committee
• Clarified re-upping member terms – members will now have the option to continue for 1 or 2 years after their first term is over, with a maximum of 4 consecutive years
• Onboarding for new members will be facilitated by the Governance Committee
• DEI committee framework and mission statement – Baciu suggested adding Legal Counsel to the list of outside entities the committee will work closely with
• J. Brown moved to approve the proposed OA revisions, Anderson added revision of DEI language at a future date, Maillet seconded
• Roll call vote taken – motion unanimously approved (20 yay, 0 nay)

VI. Informational Items

a. Committee Reports

1. Outreach & Engagement – Jonathan Dove
• Seed grant applications open until April 5
• Subcommittee formed to measure outreach

2. Diversity Council – Kimberly Anderson
• This is a new council, so finalized bylaws
• All Staff Council and Faculty Senate will each provide a representative to serve a 2-year term

3. Space Planning Management – Kimberly Hilmer
• Approved a lab shift in the Chem/Biochem Building – Hatzenpichler lab will be given a portion of Mark Young’s lab space (both sides agreed to this)
• Outdated bylaws updated to represent the current committee

VII. Public Comment
a. Will MSU be getting vaccines for staff? Last word was to go through medical providers. Whitney and Julie will ask President Cruzado at next monthly meeting.

VIII. Meeting adjourned
Clay motioned, Anderson seconded, meeting adjourned at 10:18 a.m.

Next meeting: April 21, 2021 from 9 – 11 a.m. via WebEx