Research Council Minute
February 26\textsuperscript{th}, 2020
3:00pm – 5:00pm
President’s Conference Room

VOTING:

Jason Carter
Rollin Beamish
Mary Cloninger
Ron June
Brent Peyton/Robin Gerlach
Nic Rae
William Ruff

NON-VOTING:

Alice Running
Colin Shaw
Nicole Tuss
Blake Wiedenheft
Carl Yeoman
Nicholas Childs

Craig Ogilvie
Kearns, Chris/ Jim Mitchell
Leist, Terry
Mokwa, Robert/ Singel, David
Schmidt, Leslie
Hilmer, Jonathan
Jayne Morrow

1. The minutes from the Jan. 29 meeting were approved as submitted.

2. Announcements
   a. FBI workshop set for tomorrow; focus on foreign influence issues.
   b. Proposed updates to the OCHE process for C/I proposals will be proposed at the March Board of Regents meeting. The new process will allow proposed new centers and institutes to be vetted much earlier.
   c. The University Senate unanimously approved the Center on Science, Technology, Ethics & Society.
   d. Montana Reality Lab will host an open house on Wednesday, March 11, 1-5 p.m. in Cheever Hall. They are hoping to have three or four faculty members in attendance to showcase research and the lab itself.

3. Updates from four RC subcommittees: final recommendations to be submitted at March meeting
   a. Center and Institutes – Brent suggests obtaining/providing a short synopsis or snapshot for each, including funding and reporting. Then it should be easy to determine if some should be sunsetted.
      - Draft snapshots were prepared for The Thermal Biology Institute and Center for Biofilm Engineering.
      - Craig Ogilvie would like each synopsis to include data about undergrad and grad student participation.
      - Snapshots could be submitted through each center or institute’s home department – which ever is most strongly affiliated.
      - With a five-year historical trend, we can get a general idea of the trajectory of each
      - Include more emphasis on awards (anticipated or pending?)
      - Committee./Jason to come up with a common template; Leslie Schmidt and REDGE office to help coordinate attainment of this information from Center/Institute directors
   b. Core Facilities – Committee wishes to host two listening sessions – dates not yet set, but aiming for early- to mid-March (ASAP before NCUR)
      - Colin working on questions so we can best obtain the info we want
      - How does Core Facility maintain status as VPREDGE-affiliated – or not
      - Identify target audience – existing CF directors and users
      - Appendix from 2017 lists centers; are there new CFs that have come online since then?
      - Jason will ping all deans and coordinate with Leslie
      - Add online questionnaire for those who cannot attend
      - Honors College would love to get more students into labs, facilities
      - 70+ names recommended; hoping to get 25 to participate.
- Invitations to go out this week.
- Nika Stoop has previous experience running workshops like this.
- The committee will meet again tomorrow (2/27) to discuss diversity/inclusion.
- 2020 competitive call for matching for GREs – institutionally funded; internally awarded

d. **Large Collaborative Projects:** Alice’s group is making very little progress.
   - Would like to work with Center for Faculty Excellence
   - Jayne mentioned that Liz Shanahan conducted a faculty survey – another avenue for conversation?

4. **Internal Grant Program Discussion:** Jason presented information about examples of expenditure rates over the past three years
   - Looking at award amount, balance, year – one measure of success
   - HASS and REF dollars are sitting on the sidelines; S&C grants have been spending more consistently
   - Extension policy is not in place – need to develop a philosophy with boundaries and ground rules; need backing of Research Council before making changes. Need to do a better job of setting expectations and ensuring accountability.
   - Looking to provide post-award support; simplify the process; provide burn-rate projections on every project
   - Use Catbooks as tool (not Banner). It provides weekly, monthly or quarterly automatic notifications.
   - Ron June mentioned that RC needs to have a discussion on Chrome River. Can be time-consuming for some; may save time for others

5. **Office of Research Development:** Slide presentation on EAB – Helping Faculty Achieve Their Full Research Potential, including five pillars to enhance research enterprises:
   - Funding
   - Communication
   - Infrastructure
   - Administration
   - Faculty
   - Jason will make this entire slide presentation available to all, along with the full 97-page report.
   - Bill Ruff asked how we can tap into pockets where people are already successfully implementing these ideas – can we engage them?
   - Research Development Day – use our own talent

6. **Other Items/Future Discussion?**
   - Jayne suggested getting groups of faculty together; open for conversation; create opportunities for collaboration
   - David Singel previously attended a mentoring institute; regular discussion can achieve recognition and build capacity

**Meeting adjourned 4:40 p.m.**

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**Next Research Council Meeting:** **March 18**th, 2020 3:00 pm
President’s Conference Room, Montana Hall