



**Research Council Minutes  
April 26, 2012 - 2:00 P.M.  
Graduate School Conference Room**

**RESEARCH COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Mark McLellan, Chair  
Provost Ray Coward  
Flora Schrode  
for Richard Clement

Noelle Cockett  
Beth Foley  
Nancy Huntly  
Chris Luecke

Jim MacMahon  
Nick Morrison  
for Craig Jessop

**VISITORS:**

Scott Bates, Jeff Broadbent, Teresa Seeholzer and Lorraine Walker

**1. Call to Order, Welcome & Introductions – Mark McLellan**

**2. Approval of the Agenda**

- **ACTION:** Agenda approved.

**3. Approval of Minutes of February 23, 2012**

- **ACTION:** Minutes were approved. NOTE: Research Council on March 22, 2012 was cancelled.

**4. Vice President for Research Report – Mark McLellan**

- EPSCoR Update  
Mark relayed news that the EPSCoR Track I proposal of \$20M was awarded to the State of Utah. This award, led by Dr. Todd Crowl (USU) as PI, will enhance Utah's statewide research infrastructure. An official announcement will be released in June or July 2012. Mark mentioned the importance of this award and how future opportunities can be leveraged from this award.
- Research Week 2012  
Mark gave a brief summary of Research Week. He mentioned the Research Gala (new event in 2012), where exceptional researchers at USU were recognized. He relayed that the entire week was successful and that participation by both undergraduate and graduate students continues to increase each year. This year also included an expanded offering of workshops and training that was available to faculty and graduate students.
- Graduate Student Grant Writing Workshop (Held on April 17, 2012)  
USU sponsored 125 graduate students to a one-day intensive workshop training on "Getting Started as a Successful Proposal Writer and Academician." Feedback from participants was positive and many relayed that they wished they had experienced this training sooner as it would have enabled them to be far more valuable to their major professor.
- PNNL Visit (April 10, 2012 – Mark McLellan and Doug Lemon, USURF/SDL)  
This visit provided greater understanding of PNNL's structure and how USU and PNNL might partner together in the future. Action was set forth for PNNL to now come to Logan and see USU's core facilities and learn more about USU's strengths (Visit scheduled for October 11, 2012).
- Oak Ridge Associated Universities (ORAU) Site Visit (April 12, 2012)  
As a new institutional member to ORAU, USU hosted Dr. Andy Page, ORAU President and CEO, to Logan for a campus visit. He was extremely pleased with the strengths USU has to offer and

enjoyed the overview of USU's Commercialization & Regional Development Office, USU STEM, Water Research Laboratory, Center for Person's with Disabilities, High Performance Computing and the Space Dynamics Laboratory. Membership with ORAU will open new opportunities for USU to be a partner in collaborative opportunities with other member institutions, opportunities for internships, and access to ORAU facilities and training.

- USU High Performance Computing (HPC) & RGS Reporting Changes  
John Hanks recently rejoined USU as the new HPC Director after spending the past four years at MIT and Colorado State. He plans to rename USU HPC to "Division of Research Computing" so that the name is more inviting across campus. His goal is to meet the needs and storage resources of a greater population on campus. To more fully integrate the Office of Research and Graduate Studies, Mark noted that John will report to Shelley Lindauer. He also shared an updated RGS organizational chart with the Council (posted on the RGS website). Additionally, Eric Held will continue in his role as Chair of USU's Computing Advisory Board.
- Graduate School Admission Waivers  
As questions surface on admission waivers, Mark McLellan will interface with the deans to determine which waivers should be approved.
- Graduate Program Review  
All of the self-study reviews have been submitted. Mark thanked Janis Boettinger and the Task Force for their dedication to this project. The Task Force will be sharing their findings with the faculty in a Best Practices Forum directly following Research Council (April 26). They will then distribute their findings to faculty on May 1 and share follow up information with the deans and department heads thereafter. The five-year plans are also underway and Mark commented that he as already witnessed departments implementing these ideas to build for the future.
- Support of Grant Writing Workshops  
Mark encouraged Research Council to support and share information in their colleges as grant writing workshops are announced. These workshops provide valuable information to support faculty in their grant writing efforts. The goal in the future is to have these workshops be a preamble to the Proposal Writing Institute.
- New Presidential Doctoral Research Fellow (PDRF) Program (Mark McLellan & Scott Bates)  
This program is designed, in part, as a recruiting mechanism to bring the best doctoral students to USU. Ten PDRFs will be selected each year. The RGS Office will work with deans and associate deans to optimize the timing of the selection process and discuss opportunities to integrate cohort ideas across campus. The Provost also noted that these PDRFs can also play a valuable interface role as we have visitors on campus.

5. **Old Business: None**

6. **Committee of the Whole Discussion**

- Defaults on grants – USU Disallowance Committee

7. **Reconvene Committee - New Business**

- None

8. **Wrap Up Discussion & Calendar Events – Mark McLellan**

- June 8 – Next USU Sunrise Session, 7:30-9:00 a.m. (Dr. Vonda Jump)
- June 18 – Next Faculty Grant Writing Workshop
- September 27 – Next Research Council

Minutes submitted by: Teresa Seeholzer, Research Council Secretary