



**Research Council Minutes  
February 24, 2011 - 3:00 p.m.  
Champ Hall Conference Room**

**RESEARCH COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Brent Miller, Chair  
Byron Burnham  
Jennifer Duncan  
for Richard Clement  
Noelle Cockett  
Jeff Doyle

Bryce Fifield  
Jim Dorward  
for Beth Foley  
Mac McKee  
Jagath Kaluarachchi  
for Scott Hinton

Pat Lambert  
Doug Lemon  
Nick Morrison  
for Craig Jessop  
Jim MacMahon  
Robert Pack

**GUESTS:**

Rick Allen  
DeeVon Bailey  
Scott Bates  
Jeff Broadbent

Dora Brunson  
Phaedra Budy  
Jeff Coleman  
Jerilyn Hansen  
Irene Jorgensen

Chris Luecke  
Ann McEntire  
Russ Price  
Teresa Seeholzer

1. **Approval of Minutes of January 27, 2011** - Minutes approved unanimously.
2. **Welcome & Introductions** - Brent Miller
3. **Research Presentation: Phaedra Budy, Associate Professor – Watershed Sciences Dept.**  
**Title: Factors that Limit and Facilitate Invasive Fishes**

Because of a current biodiversity crisis, extinction rates are ~1000 x higher than background rates, and conservative estimates show that ~\$10 billion/yr is spent on trying to restore/recover imperiled species. Possible causes of freshwater ecosystems being jeopardized include habitat degradation, negative interaction/invasion of exotic species and the synergistic problems between exotics and native species. Her presentation focused on the negative interactions of brown trout, and she commented that they were recently identified in the top 30 of the world's worst invasive alien species. The goal of her research team is to compare performance in exotic habitat versus native habitat, to understand the process of invasion and to minimize invasion success in the future. The Logan River is an excellent location for brown trout data collection and her research team includes many collaborators who have gathered data across the globe. She shared statistics, outcomes and implications from this research and relayed that even though an invader is successful, they can have devastating effects on ecosystems.

4. **SPO Awards/Proposals Monthly Update** – Jeff Coleman  
January 2011 graphs were shared showing the number of USU proposals and awards submitted YTD for each college and research center. It was suggested and agreed that for chart clarity, the bar text would be re-labeled to reflect “YTD 09-10 (blue) and “YTD 10-11 (red).” It also was decided that award dollar amounts would be shown, in addition to the number of awards.

## 5. Options for Grant Writing Resources – Jerilyn (Jeri) Hansen

Three handouts show resources for faculty through USU's Office of Proposal Development (OPD).

- ❖ **Funding News & Information** – Distributed electronically each month to college proposal development specialists, interested faculty and Research Council. Topics include important agency (i.e., NIH, NSF, USDA) information, web links and news about funding opportunities.
- ❖ **Current Proposal Development Information** – The OPD website contains resources for faculty looking for assistance with funding resources (internal/external), proposal information (specific to USU), agency preparation guidelines, agency review process information, USU Sponsored Programs Office information and OPD library resources (website ref: <http://research.usu.edu/opd/>). Also discussed were options to expand OPD services.
- ❖ **Research Office Support Services**
  - **SPO – (Jeff Coleman):** SPINPlus is an online funding and notification system that enables faculty/users to set up keyword searches linked to federal and organization funding opportunities. Results are automatically emailed to the individual. Workshops are held during new faculty orientation, as well as during Research Week, to share information and train faculty about SPINPlus. Jeri is also working with USU's Advancement Office on resources that will assist faculty in finding funding opportunities available through Foundations.
  - **OPD Monthly Updates (See Funding News & Information above):** This information is also posted/updated online at <http://research.usu.edu/opd/htm/funding-news-information>.
  - **Office of Global Engagement (OGE) - Opportunities for International Research Funding:** The OGE monitors online international opportunities and distributes information to faculty with a known interest in international research.

**Action Item:** Electronic copies of the (3) OPD handouts will be emailed to Research Council participants by Friday, February 25, 2011. (Action item completed)

The selection process is underway for the next (May) Proposal Writing Institute (PWI). Jeri discussed options for expanding OPD Services, but commented that some colleges are not utilizing their allotment of (3) applications per round. Pat Lambert suggested that feedback and suggestions would be helpful to faculty who are not selected each round. Jeri agreed and said feedback will be provided. Suggestions and ideas were discussed for faculty in need of more agency-specific information, as well as ideas for faculty who are not ready for USU's PWI.

## 6. International Pay Issues – Jeff Broadbent & Irene Jorgensen

Faculty and departments have expressed concerns about potential changes in pay for faculty with international assignments. Participation in foreign projects requires personal sacrifice and often exposure to unsanitary and even dangerous work environments. Because international engagement is a priority to USU, an ad-hoc committee was formed to review the concerns. Currently, USU allows faculty to receive a 10% recruitment incentive on foreign projects (Policy 379 – Section 3.7). The committee's findings were formalized in a white paper that was distributed electronically to Research Council. The U.S. Department of State allows up to a 15% incentive to recruit federal employees who participate in overseas assignments. The committee recommends that USU pursue the same incentive percentage for USU faculty. Research Council input included the following: 1) Policy language must be included in the budget justification to clarify why the incentive is proposed, 2) White paper should clarify that the 15% incentive will be calculated for actual time spent overseas, 3) Assure sensitivity to agency language as "incentive" may not be appropriate verbiage, and 4) Remove the second sentence in the **Conclusions and Recommendations** section (first paragraph, page 3).

Mac McKee stated that 15% should not be is the maximum allowed. Jeff Broadbent clarified that there is already policy language for additional allowances. He commented that if the policy is

revised and a procedure implemented, it will assure transparency as well as compliance to the cost accounting principles of A21.

**Action Item:** A motion was made by Mac McKee that Research Council support **in principle** the International Pay white paper and move forward with the suggested editorial changes. After revisions, the document will again be circulated to Research Council for review and acceptance. Motion seconded by Jagath Kaluarachchi. Motion approved unanimously.

If accepted, the next step will be to present the recommendations to USU's Executive Committee.

7. **Leave Accrual Pool Update – Rick Allen**

Feedback on the proposed changes toward implementing a leave accrual pool has resulted in concerns that the procedure will increase department/unit workload. As all funding sources would be impacted, ideas to mitigate the workload are being discussed. The process is still moving forward, but understanding the additional workload is important. After the internal controls are addressed, the DS2 (cost accounting disclosure statement) will be submitted to ONR (USU's cognizant audit agency). USU has a good indication that ONR will approve the procedure. Rick will present a revised plan to Dave Cowley in the next week. Implementation will also require approval by President Albrecht and Provost Coward. Rick believes the concept is good for the University and implementation is still possible for July 1, 2011. Another update will be provided at Research Council in March.

8. **Undergraduate Research Update - Brent Miller**

Brent introduced Scott Bates (replacing Joyce Kinhead) as USU's Associate Vice President (interim/12 months) for Undergraduate Research. Brent explained the selection process for this position and advised that the new Vice President for Research and Dean of Graduate Studies will determine the future role of this position. Scott is a faculty member in the psychology department of the Emma Eccles Jones College of Education. He arrived at USU in 2003 and has been actively involved in student research, mentoring and various undergraduate advisory boards. His assignment will be 50/50 (Psychology Dept./Research Office) beginning July 1, 2011.

9. **VPR Marketing Update – Anna McEntire**

Anna gave an overview of Research Matters 2011. Colleges/departments wishing to increase the number of copies they receive (10) must have their request to Anna by February 25, 2011. Copies will be distributed the last week of March. Suggestions for modifications that would improve the effectiveness of this publication should be submitted to Anna at [anna.mcentire@usu.edu](mailto:anna.mcentire@usu.edu). Anna highlighted events scheduled for Research Week 2011. More information can be viewed at <http://www.researchweek.usu.edu/>.

10. **Wrap Up Discussion & Calendar Events – Brent Miller**

- March 11 – Nominations due for 2011 International Professor of the Year Award
- March 24 – Scholars Day
- March 24 – Next Research Council
- March 28 thru April 1 – Research Week 2011
- March 31 thru April 5 – NCUR, Ithaca University, NY
- 2011 Sunrise Sessions
  - April 1 – Michelle Baker (College of Science) "Air and Water Quality Concerns along the Wasatch Front: Science for Sustainability"
  - June 24 – Kent Tobiska (Center Director) "The USU Space Weather Center"
  - October 28 – Noelle Cockett (Dean, College of Agriculture) "Title pending"

Meeting adjourned at 4:45 p.m.

Minutes submitted by: Teresa Seeholzer, Research Council Secretary