

OFFICE
of RESEARCH and
GRADUATE STUDIES
UtahStateUniversity
Research Council Minutes
February 23, 2012 - 3:00 p.m.
Graduate School Conference Room

RESEARCH COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mark McLellan, Chair
John Allen
Cliff Skousen
for Doug Anderson
Flora Schrode
for Richard Clement
Noelle Cockett

Nancy Huntly
Jim Dorward
Jagath Kaluarachchi
for Scott Hinton
Mike Kuhns
for Chris Luecke

Bob Pack
Jim MacMahon
Mac McKee
Nick Morrison
for Craig Jessop

VISITORS:

Jeff Broadbent
Jeri Hansen

Shelley Lindauer
Anna McEntire
Teresa Seeholzer

Kim Taylor
Lorraine Walker

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

2. **Approval of the Agenda**

- **ACTION:** The agenda was approved.

3. **Approval of Minutes of January 26, 2012**

- Nancy Huntly noted that item 6 in the minutes should be amended to reflect the topic discussed as Large “Interdisciplinary” Project vs. Disciplinary Project.
- **ACTION:** Change noted for correction in final version and minutes were approved.

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

- **Sponsored Programs Office** (Mark McLellan and Jeff Broadbent)
Jeff Coleman, Sponsored Programs Director, has accepted another position in the private sector. His last day at USU will be March 19, 2012. Mark and Jeff commented that Jeff Coleman has done an excellent job and will be missed. This position will be advertised nationally and a search committee will be formed to include representation from the colleges and major research centers. Input or suggestions to enhance the role of Sponsored Programs Director are welcome and should be forwarded to Jeff Broadbent.
- **ASCEND Newsletter** (Mark McLellan and Anna McEntire)
This monthly electronic publication replaces *Research News* and the *Graduate Gazette* as a combined resource to provide greater communication across campus from the Office of Research and Graduate Studies. Distribution reaches all USU employees (administration, faculty and staff), as well as graduate and undergraduate research students. Key metrics are relayed each month, along with upcoming calendar events and focus topics related to graduate and undergraduate research. Anna noted that the March newsletter will feature a video clip of Janis Boettinger relaying information about the Graduate Program Review process.

- College Support for USU's Proposal Writing Institute (PWI)
Mark relayed that USU's PWI is an excellent faculty resource and that colleges should assure this resource is utilized. This training has proven outcomes and USU is seeing excellent results from faculty who has participated in this program.
- NIH Financial Conflict of Interest Requirements (Jeff Broadbent)
On January 5, 2012, Mark McLellan emailed the Deans noting Federal changes and new compliance requirements from the Public Health Service (PHS). The revised regulations (effective August 2012) will impact all PHS grants and cooperative agreements. Jeff noted that the changes are significant and will require USU to update its Conflict of Interest (COI) policy before August. The most notable change is that before funds will be released to a program, individuals associated with a grant will be required to make a determination as to their financial interests in an organization or a nonpublic company. Jeff mentioned that a working group of current PHS funded faculty are meeting together to establish preliminary guidelines that will be drafted as policy change to ensure that USU is compliant to the new PHS requirements.

5. **Old Business: None**

6. **Committee of the Whole Discussions**

- Graduate Tuition Awards & Graduate Program Review

7. **Reconvene Committee - New Business**

- **ACTION:** Dean John Allen made a motion that Research Council give approval for the Office of Research and Graduate Studies to review and recommend F&A resources that will create a one-time transition pool to support Graduate Tuition Awards for FY2013.
 - Motion seconded by Dean Jim MacMahon
- **Discussion:**
 - Mark McLellan distributed to Research Council a preliminary document detailing proposed rules for a supplemental pool of F&A funds to be used for Tuition Awards (See attachment A).
 - Bob Pack asked the question if the colleges believe there are adequate funds in the F&A pool to support the shortfall of funds.
 - Dean Noelle Cockett noted that for her college there are not existing funds to make up 100% of the deficit, and in the future, it may not be possible to pick up the entire shortfall. She commented that the question is, "what is it that we can do in the interim."
- **ACTION:** Research Council approved the motion unanimously.
 - Recommendations will be reviewed and drafted ASAP. Another update will be provided at Research Council on March 22, 2012.

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

- USU has been asked by NSF's EPSCoR administrators to host and coordinate a future workshop. More information will follow in the coming months.
 - April 2 thru 6 – Research Week 2012
 - April 13 - Next Sunrise Session, 7:30-9:00 a.m. Grand America Hotel, Salt Lake City
Dr. Layne Coppock – College of Natural Resources
 - April 17 – Graduate Student Grant Writing Workshop

Minutes submitted by: Teresa Seeholzer, Research Council Secretary