



**Research Council Minutes
January 28, 2010
3:00 p.m.
Champ Hall Conference Room**

RESEARCH COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

Jeff Broadbent for
Brent Miller, Chair
Byron Burnham
Flora Schrode
for Richard Clement

Marv Bennett
Noelle Cockett
Bryce Fifield
Todd Crowl
for Nat Frazer
Jagath Kaluarachchi
for Scott Hinton

Daryll DeWald
for Jim MacMahon
Mac McKee
Jim Dorward
for Carol Strong

GUESTS:

Jeff Coleman
Todd Redman
for Ben Croshaw (ASUSU)
Irene Jorgensen

Rick Kelly
Joel Pederson
Russ Price
Tammy Rittenour

John Shervais
Teresa Seeholzer
Lorraine Walker
Ned Weinschenker

1. **Approval of Minutes of November 19, 2009** - Minutes approved unanimously.
2. **Welcome & Introductions** - Jeff Broadbent
3. **Presentation by: Joel Pederson, College of Science, USU OSL Lab:**
Title: "USU Luminescence Lab reveals Colorado Plateau bull's eye of erosion and uplift"

Dr. Pederson gave an overview of USU's Optically-Stimulated Luminescence Laboratory which focuses research on seismic/geological hazards, landscapes, climate change and ge archaeology. He explained the concept of luminescence dating and presented incision curve data from a location along the Colorado River where erosion has taken place as a result of river integration. He also explained how uplift occurs and where variation in rock strength contributes to the erosion process. His data shows fast, recent, and broad erosion of weak rocks, along with turbocharged uplift feedback occurring in Utah's southeastern canyon region. This research gives us a better understanding of erosion along the Colorado Plateau and that greater erosion activity is happening in Utah's region than in the Grand Canyon.

4. **Nonpayment of Sponsored Awards – Procedure Update** - Jeff Broadbent, Jeff Coleman, and Irene Jorgensen

Brent Miller and Jeff Broadbent met with major Center Directors in December and January to incorporate additional suggestion for this proposed procedure. The latest draft was shared and discussed with Research Council participants for review and further input.

Suggested recommendations/revisions:

- a) Language to address “umbrella” form should be added.
- b) Guarantee of Expenditures form should be revised to include:
 - List of exemptions
 - Section that shows status of award
- c) Industry payment terms will be fully defined in procedure.
- d) Contract language will be handled proactively.

Next revision of procedure will be available for review and discussion at February’s Research Council.

5. **Graduate Student Health Insurance Update** - Byron Burnham

Dean Burnham reported that a number of meetings have been held to follow the progress, implementation and coverage of USU’s graduate student health insurance. Some challenges still exist relative to enrollment services. Some participants have relayed concerns about access and coverage. USU Wellness Center representatives have provided resources on campus to address questions/concerns. Approximately 600 of the eligible 800 students are enrolled in this coverage. By July of 2010, the goal is to have a dedicated resource on campus (likely within the Taggart Student Center) to assist these students. As premium increases are uncertain, Byron reported that rates should hold steady through the next fiscal year. The question was asked if the 8% benefit allocation could be reduced on future proposal submissions. Because rates will fluctuate, it was recommended that the percentage be left at 8% until we have several years of experience.

6. **Office of Proposal Development (OPD) Update** – Jerilyn Hansen

The OPD was implemented under the VPR Office in 2008 to assist USU researchers in developing more competitive proposals. The goal is to expand external research funding at USU through training, enhanced services, insight to proposal strategy, and to foster interdisciplinary collaboration. Jeri gave an overview of the OPD services and progress/successes achieved thus far. Resources have been expanded to include a campus-wide network of proposal development specialists in various centers, departments and colleges, as well as a Proposal Writing Institute (PWI). The next PWI is scheduled to begin in April 2010. Todd Crowl offered to assist the OPD in connecting with NSF experts to give training at USU’s PWI. Deans are to submit participant recommendations for the next PWI to the OPD office no later than Friday, February 19, 2010.

7. **Recap of January 1, 2010 Seed Funding Awards** – Jeff Broadbent

Jeff shared a copy of a memo sent to the deans summarizing the January 2010 RC, GEM and SPARC seed funding awards. Outcomes and statistics were reviewed back to the first award cycle in July 2008. Observations from the review committee have been that the quality of RC applications has steadily improved and thereby USU is seeing an increase in the success rate for this program. Jeff noted that the number of applications for GEM and SPARC submissions remain low, even though the funding success rates have been consistently high. Each of the seed funding opportunities requires that an external grant proposal be submitted within three months of the grant completion. Jeff thanked the college representatives who participate on the review panel and relayed that the next round of

available seed funding begins on July 1, 2010. Colleges must have their ranked submission to the VPR office on or before April 15, 2010.

8. **Research Week 2010 Agenda, Research Matters Honors & Awards and VPR Brief on Undergraduate Research 35th Anniversary** – Anna McEntire

Research Matters 2010 is nearing completion and being prepared for print. Included in the 2010 edition will be a list of USU faculty who received honors and awards, as well as those who published books. Anna shared a handout referencing information that has been retrieved for 2009 and asked for continued support from faculty in forwarding this information to the VPR Office.

Research Week 2010 will take place March 29 thru April 2. This year's event will recognize and celebrate 35 years of undergraduate research at USU. A copy of the week's agenda was distributed and Anna noted that posters will also be visible across campus highlighting scheduled events.

9. **F&A Budgets** – Jeff Broadbent for Brent Miller

A copy of the FY2010 Research F&A budget was distributed to give greater transparency of how F&A dollars are dispersed

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

- January 29, 2010 -- Sunrise Session: Ken White (Little America, SLC)
- February 12, 2010 – Deans to submit college nominations to VPR Office for:
 - USU Researcher of the Year
 - Undergraduate Researcher of the Year
 - Mentor of the Year
- February 25, 2010 -- Next Research Council
- March 29 thru April 2, 2010 – Research Week

Meeting adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

Minutes submitted by: Teresa Seeholzer, Research Council Secretary