



**Research Council Minutes
January 27, 2011 - 3:00 p.m.
Champ Hall Conference Room**

RESEARCH COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

Brent Miller, Chair
Byron Burnham
Flora Schrode
for Richard Clement
Noelle Cockett
Cliff Skousen
for Jeff Doyle

Bryce Fifield
Jim Dorward
for Beth Foley
Todd Crowl
for Nat Frazer
Mac McKee
for Jagath Kaluarachchi
& Scott Hinton

Patricia Lambert
Nicholas Morrison
for Craig Jessop
Lisa Berreau
for Jim MacMahon
Robert Pack

GUESTS:

DeeVon Bailey
Jeff Broadbent
Christopher Cokinos
Jeff Coleman

Jerilyn Hansen
Joyce Kinhead
Anna McEntire
Kristen Munson

Teresa Seeholzer
Matthew Todd
Jeannie Thomas
Lorraine Walker

1. **Approval of Minutes of November 18, 2010** - Minutes approved unanimously.
2. **Welcome & Introductions** - Brent Miller
3. **Research Presentation: Christopher Cokinos, Associate Professor – English Department**
Title: “From Vanished Birds to Shooting Stars...and now ET?: How Does an English Major Become a Nature-and-Science Writer?”

Author of *Hope is the Thing with Feathers*, Christopher Cokinos told how his writing became intertwined with science and nature. While living in Indiana and Kansas, he evolved from hiking and bird watching, to researching extinct species such as the Carolina Parakeet, the Passenger Pigeon and the Heath Hen. His second book project, *The Fallen Sky: An Intimate History of Shooting Stars*, also started while in Kansas. Because of the vast open space, it was an excellent place for hunting meteorites. When he began this second book, he believed it would take him in the direction of focusing on adventures of “crazy individuals” who go in search of meteorites around the world. While working closely with these scientists, he found that they had lives full of adventure but also experienced tragedy and challenges similar to his own. His goal has not only been to cover science, but to capture life experiences by blending the personal in his writing. Part of Chris’ research was covered by an NSF grant that supported his Antarctic expedition in search of meteorites. Todd Crowl mentioned additional funding opportunities available through NSF for Long-term Ecological Research (LTER) grants for artists and writers.

4. **Leave Accrual Pool Update** – Brent Miller
Rick Allen relayed to Brent that the revised DS-2 (Cost Accounting Standards Disclosure Statement) has not yet been formalized and submitted. Rick will meet with Controller’s Office personnel the week of February 7 to address E&G and FTE issues. Rick is hopeful that by February 15 a revised DS-2 will be ready for submission and that the programming for the E&G

issues will then be completed. Implementation is still planned for July 1, 2011. Another progress report will be given at Research Council in February.

5. **NSF Project Outcomes Reports – Jeff Broadbent**

In January 2011, NSF implemented new requirements which apply to Outcome Reports dating back to projects awarded in January 2010. Because of concern that there might be potential conflicts with existing policies, proprietary information, and invention disclosures, a procedure has been drafted to assist USU Principal Investigators with completing NSF Outcome Reports. Jeff shared a handout detailing the procedural steps. The draft Outcomes Report will be coordinated with the PI and final authorization to submit the report is vested with the VP for Research to assure the report does not contradict USU policy. It was restated that this procedure is not to censor the PI, but is a step to assure that the report meets NSF guidelines and is easily understood.

6. **SPO Awards/Proposals Monthly Update – Jeff Coleman**

Graphs were shared showing the number of USU proposals and awards submitted YTD for each College and Research Center. These graphs will be updated and distributed each month at Research Council. It was noted that both the number of proposals and awards are down this year as compared to 2009/2010, but that the total award amount is up.

7. **International Professor of the Year Award (Pending) – DeeVon Bailey**

Steps are being taken for implementation of a new international faculty recognition that will be awarded each year at commencement. The award will alternate between faculty known primarily for their achievements in research, technical assistance or creative activities one year, and international education the next year. If approved, call for nominations will be due in March. More details about the award will be shared as they become available.

8. **VPR Office Search Updates**

❖ **VP of Research and Dean of the School of Graduate Studies**

- **Search Committee Chair, Noelle Cockett**

A handout was shared showing the current organizational structure for these units, along with the job description and position announcement that is posted on USU's employment page. The eleven member committee will begin screening and reviewing applicants on February 23, 2011. The goal is to have interviews completed and a person selected by the end of spring semester (May 6) with a start date on July 1, 2011.

❖ **Associate VP for Research (Interim) – Undergraduate Research**

- **Search Committee Chair, Brent Miller**

This position will replace Joyce Kinhead who is stepping down for a sabbatical leave in 2011/2012. She will return to USU's English Department in 2012/2013. Joyce's replacement will be an interim role for 1 year and conducted as an internal search. A job description and role statement/position announcement was circulated to deans and departments heads this past December. Brent relayed that many nominations and interested applicants (~ 12) resulted. Brent interviewed the candidates and several were identified for a second tier of interviews with VPR personnel. It is anticipated that the interview and selection process will be completed in the next few weeks. In the coming year, the new VP for Research/ Dean of the School of Graduate Studies will determine the future research office organization.

9. **New Funding Info & PWI Applications – Jerilyn Hansen, Office of Proposal Development**

A handout was shared detailing funding news and information from NSF, USDA NIFA, DoD, DoE and NIST. Additional news links from USDA were referenced. Jerilyn will update the list with the active agency links and distribute an electronic copy to deans and department heads for them to disseminate. This list will be expanded and coordinated regularly with proposal development specialists in each college/unit. Bob Pack asked what additional options exist to maximize and integrate proposal development opportunities at USU; specific to getting the right information to

interested parties in a timely manner. Jeff Coleman described the SPINS database and encouraged faculty to keep their profiles up-to-date in SPINS.

A handout about USU's Proposal Writing Institute was shared. Jerilyn gave an overview of the institute and the application process and requirements. Applications are submitted to the deans who then rank no more than three nominees and forward their applications to the Office of Proposal Development. Those selected to participate are notified mid-March. The question was asked if proposal submissions are held up or delayed by only having one PWI session each year, and would it be worthwhile to add another session to accommodate more applicants? Jeff Broadbent and Noelle Cockett commented that the intent of the PWI is for professional development in strengthening new faculty in writing good proposals. Noelle commented that some faculty are not ready to do grants and adding more individuals, or adding an additional PWI session, would reduce the effectiveness of the PWI. She also mentioned that she has not seen a "bottleneck" result thus far due to only one session offered each year.

Proposal workshops also are held each year at New Faculty Research Orientation, as well as during Research Week. Pat Lambert commented that the College of Humanities and Social Sciences has expanded their resources in this area and also added workshops to help their faculty. Other college representatives commented they too have implemented similar resources.

Jeff Broadbent and Jerilyn Hansen will share additional resource tools about proposals and grant writing services at February's Research Council.

10. Undergraduate Research Update – Joyce Kinkead

Research on Capitol Hill celebrated its 10th anniversary on January 26, 2011. Joyce recapped the day's events and shared photos and information about USU's undergraduate researchers. A total of 35 students participated and all colleges were represented. USU received a commendation on the Senate floor by Senator Lyle Hillyard recognizing the 10th anniversary. Later in the day, a proclamation by the Governor was given on the steps of the Capitol Rotunda, read by Lt. Governor Bell, recognizing the importance of undergraduate research to the State of Utah. Future events include UCUR at Weber State, February 18, where 300-400 undergraduate researchers from throughout the state will participate. On March 30-April 1, NCUR will take place at Ithaca University in New York where 20 USU students have been selected to share their research. NCUR 2012 will be held at Weber State University. Stacey Hills' Marketing and Research class (The Jon M. Huntsman School of Business) has adopted undergraduate research for a class project this year. They have formed 14 teams (team assigned to each college, unit and extension site) with the purpose of developing a marketing and research plan to further enhance undergraduate research at USU.

11. VPR Marketing Update – Anna McEntire

Finalizing content for Research Matters 2011 is almost complete. A memo will be distributed to department heads on January 28 asking for assistance in compiling faculty information on research honors, awards, and books for 2010. Anna shared a list of those identified thus far. This list will be shared electronically so that each college can augment their information with the VPR Office. Additions to the list must be submitted to the VPR Office by 5:00 pm on February 4, 2011. Also shared was an outline of daily events for Research Week 2011 (March 28-April 1). A tentative agenda can be viewed at <http://researchweek.usu.edu/>.

12. GSS & Intermountain Graduate Research Symposium (IGRS) - Matthew Todd

Matt shared a handout detailing the IGRS agenda for Research Week 2011. He gave an overview of the events along with mentioning the prizes and awards available to graduate participants. He asked departments to help their grad students with registration fees if possible. Mary Cleave, NASA astronaut, veteran of two Space Shuttle missions and USU alum, will be the keynote speaker at the Awards Banquet on Thursday, March 31. Matt asked for participation by those who could help judge events that week to help provide quality feedback to those participating.

13. Wrap Up Discussion & Calendar Events – Brent Miller

- Query Research Council about tour of BioInnovations Building (March?)
- January 26 – Research on Capitol Hill (9 am-12:30 pm – State Capitol Rotunda)
- February 18 – UCUR, Weber State
- February 24 – Next Research Council
- 2011 Sunrise Sessions
 - January 21 – John Elwell (SDL) “Mapping the Sky in Infrared Light: The Wide-field Infrared Survey Explorer (WISE)”
 - 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 4:30 p.m.

Minutes submitted by: Teresa Seeholzer, Research Council Secretary