



**Research Council Minutes
March 25, 2010 3:00 p.m.
Champ Hall Conference Room**

RESEARCH COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

Brent Miller, Chair
Chris Fawson
for Doug Anderson
Marv Bennett
Byron Burnham
Richard Clement

Teryl Roper
for Noelle Cockett
Nicholas Morrison
for Yolanda Flores Niemann
Jagath Kaluarachchi
for Scott Hinton

Richard Cutler
for Jim MacMahon
Mac McKee
Jim Dorward
for Carol Strong
Vincent Wickwar

GUESTS:

Jeff Broadbent
Jeff Coleman
Marvin Halling

MK Jeppesen
Irene Jorgensen
Rick Kelley

Anna McEntire
Robert Spall
Lorraine Walker

1. **Approval of Minutes of February 25, 2010** - Minutes approved unanimously.
2. **Welcome & Introductions** - Brent Miller
3. **Research Presentation by: Marvin Halling - College of Engineering, Civil and Environmental Engineering Department**
Title: "Diagnosing the Health of a Bridge"

Dr. Halling's (along with USU colleagues) research is funded as part of a large 2005 Federal Transportation Act and includes participation with multiple universities and private companies across the country. USU's role is to understand how a bridge performs under various circumstances, as well as predicting how a bridge will perform by measuring dynamic properties to determine weaknesses and strengths. Dr. Halling shared examples in Utah, as well as pilot sites in many states, where bridge testing using various evaluation techniques, such as modal analysis and vibration, is underway. Data collection provides a dual purpose with this research: 1) On-going measurements for comparisons, and 2) should an earthquake occur, the motion of the bridge is recorded for structural analysis. In addition to field sites, USU has a "smash lab" on campus where bridge segments are brought for testing. Outcomes of this research will provide important feedback towards implementing improvements with future planning, safety, and maintenance of bridges.

4. **SPO Director Finalized** – Jeff Broadbent
Jeff Coleman introduced as USU's new Sponsored Programs Director.
5. **Nonpayment of Sponsored Awards – Procedure Update** - Jeff Broadbent/Jeff Coleman
After several revisions and input/recommendations from colleges, faculty, departments and members of Research Council, the latest draft was shared and distributed to Research Council.

Actions: Mac McKee motioned to approve the Nonpayment of Sponsored Awards Procedure with revisions noted as of March 22, 2010. Marv Bennett seconded the motion. Motion approved unanimously.

6. **Limited Submission Process (e.g., IGERT, MRI)** - Jeff Broadbent
When USU becomes aware of limited submission opportunities, SPO disseminates the information on campus to gauge interest. In an effort to organize these submissions more strategically and better serve the University, Jeff requested feedback on ideas of how USU might be more proactive with handling these submissions. Attendees were asked to email/phone Jeff with their input.
7. **USU HPC Steering Committee** – Robert Spall
A six member committee has been formed to explore and broaden new HPC capabilities at USU. Members are Bob Spall, Chair (Engineering), Rob Gillies (Ag), Jiming Jin (Natural Resources), Dan Watson (Computer Science) and Eric Held (Physics) and Alex Boldyrev (Chemistry and Biochemistry). The committee chair will alternate each year. Consideration and steps are underway to have an HPC System Administrator align under USU's IT Department to provide technical support and expertise as a dedicated resource to USU HPC efforts.
8. **Research Week 2010** – Anna McEntire
Anna gave an overview of the agenda and scheduled events for Research Week. Complete details can be viewed on the USU VPR webpage at: <http://researchweek.usu.edu> through April 2, 2010. Information about the Faculty Book Reception and Graduate Student Symposium were also covered.
9. **USU Budget Status** – David Cowley
Utah's 2010 legislative session concluded on March 11. Dave gave an overview of the final budget reduction percentages for FY2010. Additional furloughs and further general distribution cuts across campus will not be necessary for FY2010. Challenges still exist with capital projects, however, USU is fortunate to have received approval to move forward with the new Agriculture building. Budgeted cuts determined for FY2011 will still proceed as planned.
10. **Wrap Up Discussion & Calendar Events** – Brent Miller
 - Dean Searches: In progress
 - March 29 thru April 2, 2010 – Research Week
 - April 9, 2010 – Sunrise Session: Fred Provenza
 - April 16, 2010 – CNR, Wildland Pre-project Symposium
 - May 7-8, 2010 – USU Commencement
 - Oct 25-26, 2010 – NSF Regional Grants Conference, SLC

Meeting adjourned at 4:15 pm

Minutes submitted by: Teresa Seeholzer, Research Council Secretary