



**Research Council Minutes  
November 19, 2009  
3:00 p.m.  
Champ Hall Conference Room**

**RESEARCH COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:**

|                      |                            |                  |
|----------------------|----------------------------|------------------|
| Brent Miller, Chair  | Noelle Cockett             | Doug Lemon       |
| Chris Fawson         | Bryce Fifield              | Jim MacMahon     |
| for Douglas Anderson | John Allen                 | Mac McKee        |
| Byron Burnham        | for Yolanda Flores Niemann | Jim Dorward      |
| Flora Schrode        | Jagath Kaluarachchi        | for Carol Strong |
| for Richard Clement  | for Scott Hinton           |                  |

**GUESTS:**

|                         |                 |                  |
|-------------------------|-----------------|------------------|
| Charles Carpenter       | Irene Jorgensen | Teresa Seeholzer |
| Jeff Coleman            | Rick Kelly      | Lorraine Walker  |
| Todd Redman             | Joyce Kinkead   | Ned Weinschenker |
| for Ben Croshaw (ASUSU) | Russ Price      | Heidi Wengreen   |

1. **Approval of Minutes of November 19, 2009** - Minutes approved unanimously.
2. **Welcome & Introductions** - Brent Miller
3. **Presentation by: Dr. Heidi Wengreen, Assistant Professor – College of Agriculture, Nutrition, Dietetics and Food Sciences: “Food for Thought”**

Dr. Wengreen's research focuses on diet and late-life cognition and risk for Alzheimer's disease (AD). With more than 5 million people diagnosed, AD is the 6<sup>th</sup> leading cause of death, and the 3<sup>rd</sup> most costly condition in the United States. Her research evaluates the life stages, cognitive functions, lifestyle, medical history and dietary patterns of the participants. Because blood pressure is a proven risk pattern with Alzheimer's, the Dietary Approaches to Stop Hypertension (DASH) eating plan is emphasized and implemented with the research participants. Findings show that diet is an exposure that might play a role in the early intervention stages with this disease. Projections show that if the onset of Alzheimer's could be decreased by 5 years, the prevalence of the disease could be decreased by 50% over the next 40 years.

4. **Recap of USU Visit to CAES/INL, Idaho** – Brent Miller, Jagath Kaluarachchi

On November 13, 2009, USU representatives (Brent Miller, Jagath Kaluarachchi, Byard Wood, Ned Weinschenker and Rob Behunin) traveled to the Center for Advanced Energy Studies in Idaho Falls. This state-of-the-art facility is partnered with Idaho National Labs and includes research faculty from Idaho State University, Boise State and the University of Idaho. CAES enables these institutions to collaborate and provide important benefits with graduate students and research faculty. The purpose of USU's visit was to tour the facility

and gain insight on CAES's operating model as USU prepares for the completion (Summer 2010) of the Bingham Entrepreneurial and Energy Research facility currently under construction in Vernal.

5. **EPSCoR Update** – Brent Miller, Jim MacMahon & Jagath Kaluarachchi

The narrative abstract of Utah's Track I proposal submission to NSF was shared with Research Council. Review by NFS is in process, and awards should be announced in the spring of 2010.

The Track II proposal (Cyber Infrastructure) was submitted mid November. If funded, the award must be shared with another state (North Dakota); USU would receive additional HPC funding support for equipment and staff.

6. **Grad Scholars Program/NSF RCR Requirements** – Russ Price

The America COMPETES Act, includes language that requires all recipients of NSF funding to provide training in the Responsible Conduct of Research (RCR). These guidelines become effective January 4, 2010. This includes training for undergraduates, graduates and post-docs. An overview of the congressional mandate, NSF's guidance on institutional plans, and a copy of USU's response to implementation plans to meet the requirements will be distributed to all Research Council participants. USU's implementation program consists of four training elements: 1) On-line training through Collaborative Institutional Training Initiative (CITI), 2) Graduate Scholars Orientation held annually with Graduate Student Orientation, 3) Fall Graduate Scholars Forum, and 4) Spring Graduate Scholars Forum. This baseline information provides the necessary training for USU to be compliant with the new NSF requirements. Beyond this training, colleges and departments should review their disciplinary needs in providing ethics training and contact USU's Compliance Office for further assistance as needed.

7. **Graduate Student Senate Grants** – Rick Kelly

An overview of the purpose of GSS grants, who is eligible, and funding availability was shared. GSS closely oversees these awards to assure they are used to offset costs of students' research/graduate work that their major professor, department, and college cannot financially support. Applications due November 30, 2009.

8. **Industry Sponsored Research (Payment Terms)** – Jeff Coleman

A draft procedure was shared with Research Council of proposed payment terms for industry sponsored research. The purpose of the proposed procedure is to reduce USU's financial risk as contracts are set-up and executed. Peer institutions have implemented similar procedures and guidelines. It is proposed that if advance payment terms cannot be negotiated with the customer, the Departmental/College Guarantee of Expenditures Form will be required before USU begins work and agrees to other payment terms not defined in the procedure. Also included in the procedure is attention to warranty disclosure language within contracts, as well as clarity in defining contract expectations, milestones and deliverables.

Mac McKee commented that in some cases, master agreements are in place which took several years to establish. Implementing new requirements with these established customers could drive away business. Jeff Coleman commented that the Guarantee of Expenditures Form would allow the Department/College flexibility as needed.

Russ Price commented that a risk assessment strategy needs to be outlined so that consistency with all customers is clearly defined. Bryce Fifield agreed and also commented that other venues of guarantee, such as a letter of intent, should also be considered as options so that delays don't encumber the projects.

Jim MacMahon commented that item 4 of the procedure should include shared responsibility with the Vice President for Research Office. Lorraine Walker noted that as the deans have requested to have jurisdiction as to when work begins/resumes, the majority of responsibility lies with the college. Brent commented that the signatures required would be reviewed.

Jagath Kaluarachchi commented that risk assessment parameters should be clearly defined in the procedure.

The procedure will continue to be improved and refined with input from each of the colleges over the next 2 months. Next review will take place at January's Research Council.

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

Research Calendar 2010 has been distributed. A spreadsheet listing which Research Matters stories will be covered in the 2010 publication was shared. Deans and department heads have been notified. Anna distributed a Call for Honors, Books and National News Mentions for *Research Matters 2010* and listed the criteria for each area. The compiled lists for the 2010 publication, along with the Research Week 2010 agenda, will be shared at January's Research Council. The VPR website will also be updated with this information.

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

- David Peak named Utah's 2009 Carnegie Professor of the Year
- *InCites™* software to be implemented at USU. Customized, citation-based research evaluation tool on the Web that will enable USU to analyze institutional productivity and benchmark output against peers worldwide.
  - NSF Regional Grants Conference – October 25-26, 2010 – Salt Lake City
  - No Research Council in December
  - December 4, 2009 – NCUR 2010 Abstracts Due
  - January 28, 2010—Research on Capitol Hill (Capitol Rotunda) 9:00-1:00 p.m.
  - January 28, 2010 – Research Council
  - January 29, 2010 - Sunrise Session: Dr. Ken White

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Meeting adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

Minutes submitted by: Teresa Seeholzer, Research Council Secretary