



**Research Council Minutes
November 18, 2010 - 3:00 p.m.
Champ Hall Conference Room**

RESEARCH COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

Brent Miller, Chair
Byron Burnham
Flora Schrode
for Richard Clement
Bryce Fifield
for Jim Dorward
& Beth Foley

Todd Crowl
for Nat Frazer
Jagath Kaluarachchi
for Scott Hinton
Pat Gantt
for Patricia Lambert

Doug Lemon
Nicholas Morrison
for Craig Jessop
Jim MacMahon
Mac McKee
Robert Pack

GUESTS:

Rick Allen
Michelle Baker
Jeff Broadbent

Jeff Coleman
Irene Jorgensen

Teresa Seeholzer
Matthew Todd
Lorraine Walker

1. **Approval of Minutes of October 21, 2010** - Minutes approved unanimously.
2. **Welcome & Introductions** - Brent Miller
3. **Research Presentation: Michelle Baker, Associate Professor – Department of Biology**
Title: “iUtah – Urban Transitions and Aridregion Hydro-sustainability: A proposal to enhance Utah’s research and human infrastructure capacity.”

USU recently teamed with Utah EPSCoR institutions to submit an EPSCoR R-II Track -1 proposal. Michelle recapped components of the iUTAH proposal, which addresses the question “How does human population pressure, coupled with changing climate and altered land use, affect sustainability of Utah’s desert, urban and mountain ecosystems?” Along with the research infrastructure, Michelle mentioned the intellectual focus on mountains, deserts, and cities. Broader impact of the proposal addresses human infrastructure enhancements, including STEM interface and competitive outcomes involving interdisciplinary researchers and multi-institutional teams. Michelle shared a list of the iUtah team leaders, facilities and partners. If Utah is awarded funding, it would result in \$4 million/year for 5 years, with a 20% match. More information about the EPSCoR program in Utah can be found on the state’s website at www.utahepscor.org.

4. **Decision About New Faculty Startup Funding – Brent Miller**
As follow up to October’s Research Council, Brent distributed a copy of the New Faculty Start-up Budget Form. Modifications were approved at last month’s meeting to include dean and department head signatures, as well as a column for additional cost centers. Focus now is on proposed funding percentages supported by the Research Office for faculty whose research role statement is less than 50%. Mac McKee stated that F&A is limited, and if F&A returns are not coming from a group, even though they may be doing good scholarly work, it’s hard to spend limited F&A funds.

Action Item: Todd Crowl made a motion to amend the budget form as follows:

- “Up to half of the new faculty member’s start-up costs will be considered for support by the Research Office for new faculty hires with a research assignment of **.45%** or greater. For faculty with less than **.45%**, the amount provided will be proportional to the role statement weighting for research, scholarship, or creative activity (e.g., 25% funding support can be provided from the Research Office for faculty with 25% role assignment for research).

Mac McKee seconded the motion. Motion approved unanimously.

5. Report on NSF Regional Grants Conference – Jeff Broadbent

October 25-26 – Hilton City Center. Over 260 participants attended. USU had excellent representation with over 100 people involved. Feedback has been positive and Jeff recapped some of the conference presentations. He noted that NSF continues to place a priority on graduate research fellows and has targeted this area for growth. He also referenced USU workshops that are available to faculty to improve awareness of NSF opportunities. Because of stimulus funding this past year, NSF Career Award success rates increased from 24% to over 30%. USU had five Career awardees last year and Jeff emphasized the importance of young USU faculty focusing on this goal. NSF supplied each institution a memory drive of the conference agenda and presentations. Links to this information can be obtained on the VPR website at: <http://research.usu.edu/htm/faculty-funding-and-startup/nsf-regional-grants-files>

Beginning January 18, 2011, NSF will begin requiring two new reports from entities receiving NSF funds: 1) Data Management Plan for all NSF proposals, and 2) Outcomes Report; to address what NSF science expenditures do for the general public.

The Outcomes Report will be vetted internally for content to assure that reports are relayed in layman’s terms. The Research Office will suggest a protocol for this report, and will distribute information in December, 2010. Bob Pack noted that this step of reporting should not be perceived as censorship. Brent agreed and intends only to assure the report meets NSF guidelines and is easily interpreted.

Todd Crowl mentioned NSF doctoral dissertation grants that are available. Additionally, over the next 5 years, a large percentage of available funding will be allocated to Science, Engineering and Education for sustainability. Many of the new opportunities will require interdisciplinary teams. Todd Crowl will forward this information to Jeff Broadbent who will then distribute it more broadly.

6. Sponsored Programs Count of Award Actions – Jeff Broadbent & Jeff Coleman

Charts were distributed showing the number of USU proposal submissions and awards for sponsored projects for each college. The objective of these charts is to relay the progress achieved and to assist with planning and projections for next year. Those in attendance liked the cumulative year-to-date charts and the data comparisons to the previous year. A request was made to show similar data for research centers. This information will now be distributed on a monthly basis from the Research Office.

7. Post-doctoral Positions – Byron Burnham, Brent Miller

Each year NSF conducts a survey relative to how many postdocs are at each institution. Completing this survey becomes a challenge at USU because Banner is not coded to identify post docs and differentiate them from research assistants. In the past, Lorraine Walker has contacted each of the colleges to try and verify this information. This process has raised some concerns as defining these roles has resulted in inconsistencies. To clarify these positions as defined by NSF, a handout was distributed outlining the difference between postdocs and non-faculty researchers. The first week of December, Lorraine will share this information with deans and department heads. Responses from the colleges will be due the second week of January in preparation for NSF’s next survey deadline the end of January, 2011. In the coming months, the Research Office and

Graduate School will work with Banner programmers to pursue options on how USU can monitor and track these positions in a more efficient manner.

8. Leave Accrual Pool for Research Accounts - Rick Allen & Brent Miller

As follow up from October's meeting, Brent Miller and Rick Allen met with USU's Vice President for Business and Finance, David Cowley, to discuss the requirements for implementing a leave accrual pool for individuals who are funded on "soft-money." There are a few issues to address regarding state appropriated funds, but Rick believes these can be addressed and resolved. David Cowley supports this proposed action and approves Rick to move it forward, coordinated with the Budget Office. Rick will now prepare a proposal to implement this leave accrual pool at USU and submit documentation to ONR in January. ONR is familiar with this proposal as it will be structured similar to USURF's model. The question was asked if this process will affect the staff benefit rate that researchers enter on their proposals; Rick said it will not change the way budgets are submitted. This is not a staff benefit, but rather a salary allocation of leave costs. Salary budgets include that portion that will be taken in leave. Rick will prepare a draft outline of the process to share with deans in January. The goal is to have programming steps completed in March for a target implementation date effective July 1, 2011.

9. Wrap Up Discussion & Calendar Events – Brent Miller

- A "call for proposals" EPSCoR Track-2 (Cyberinfrastructure) was shared and discussed. This document will be emailed on November 18 to deans and department heads to share and distribute in their colleges. Pre-proposals are due December 3, 2010.
 - **January 21** – Sunrise Session, John Elwell – Space Dynamics Lab
"Mapping the Sky in Infrared Light: The Wide-field Infrared Survey Explorer (WISE)"
 - **January 26** – Research on Capitol Hill - Capitol Hill Rotunda, Salt Lake City
 - **January 27** - Research Council & tour of USTAR BiInnovations Building
 - **March 28 thru April 1** – Research Week 2011

Meeting adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

Minutes submitted by: Teresa Seeholzer, Research Council Secretary