



Research Council Minutes
November 29, 2012 - 3:30-4:30 P.M.
Champ Hall Conference Room, Old Main 136

RESEARCH COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mark McLellan, Chair
Provost Ray Coward
Cliff Skousen
for Douglas Anderson
Wendy Holliday
for Richard Clement

Noelle Cockett
Jim Dorward
for Beth Foley
Jagath Kaluarachchi
for Scott Hinton

Nancy Huntly
Jim MacMahon
Mac McKee

VISITORS:

Scott Bates, Kevin Peterson, Russ Price, Rita Teutonico, Teresa Seeholzer and Lorraine Walker

1. **Call to Order, Welcome & Introductions – Mark McLellan**

2. **Approval of the Agenda**

- **ACTION:** Agenda approved.

3. **Approval of Minutes of October 30, 2012**

- **ACTION:** Minutes approved with noted correction from Nancy Huntly relative to NSF changes.

4. **Vice President for Research Report – Mark McLellan**

- **Tuition Awards (Added agenda item)**
We have been able to determine that effectively immediately, a “one/single pool” funding approach for tuition awards will be accepted. This will now give colleges and departments the flexibility needed to optimize the use of the available tuition award dollars. In order to track these dollars accurately, Lorraine Walker will be in touch with the colleges to identify the specific account codes that will be used for these funds.
 - **Recap of TED^xUSU Event on November 7, 2012**
Feedback regarding the event has been positive. The plan is to continue TED^xUSU on an annual basis to showcase USU and our successful USU alum. Mark noted that colleges would be invited to submit nominations of potential presenters for the fall 2013 event.
 - **Update on Selection of New RGS Associate VP/Associate Dean**
The process has taken extra time to finalize, but is moving forward. The final selection will take place soon, and Mark thanked the Search Committee for their time and effort. This committee consisted of Jeff Broadbent (Committee Chair), Alan Savitzky (Science), Gene Schupp (Natural Resources), Gretchen Peacock and Tim Slocum (Education), Jagath Kaluarachchi (Engineering), Jeannie Thomas (HaSS), Katherine McConkie (Business), Paul Johnson (Agriculture), Steven Beck and DD Leonard (RGS Office).
 - **Awards Summary**
October 2012 total award dollars increased by 44.4% as compared to October 2011. For the same time comparison, proposals submitted also increased by 60% in dollars and 14.3% in the number of awards submitted. Cumulative award totals for FY2013 show a decrease of 7.8% in dollars awarded. Award numbers were also down 8.7% as compared to the same time period in FY2012; however, improvement was made from the previous month in both categories. Mark noted that monthly fluctuations will occur, so the key is to follow the trends and understand the factors behind the monthly/yearly changes.
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- FY2013 Supplemental Tuition Awards
College discussions regarding the FY2013 allocations are currently taking place. Mark relayed that these discussions are providing the RGS Office with positive insight on how the funds are being managed. Once the discussions are complete, the colleges will be notified of the final 2013 spring semester allocations. Funding notifications will be available by the third week of December.
- Funding Finder Update (Jeri Hansen)
This software tool was developed by the RGS Office to assist faculty in searching/locating funding opportunities. Jeri has led the project team to implement this tool and she gave a brief demonstration of its capabilities. The project is in the final development stages and the projected release date is expected to be in the first quarter of 2013. An email will be distributed to all faculty/staff as soon as the release date is identified. Another update will be provided to Research Council in January.
- FY2012 F&A Recap (Lorraine Walker)
A summary sheet was shared showing the percentages of where approximately \$9 M in F&A was used in the past fiscal year. Mark noted that at the January 2013 Research Council, the itemized detail of the final allocations for FY2012 will be shared, along with the FY2013 budget. It was suggested that the percentages for the USTAR building categories be separated between Research and Commercialization related facilities and programs. Lorraine agreed and will adjust the summary for the next meeting.
- EPSCoR Information (Added Agenda Item – Rita Teutonico)
Rita summarized what the EPSCoR designation means for the State of Utah and Utah State University. As USU faculty are working on new proposals and collaborating with other institutions, it is important for them to articulate the positive benefits USU has to offer and where USU's strengths can offer synergistic benefits to specific programs. The RGS Office is developing "broiler plate" verbiage that will aid USU researchers as they prepare proposals. Nancy Huntly relayed that by knowing what the state's EPSCoR theme is and knowing what is in the state's Science & Technology Plan can greatly help showcase the synergy criteria and be a positive leverage component of the proposal. Referencing that USU has the State EPSCoR designation should not be used as persuasion verbiage within proposals, but rather as a matter of fact regarding our university status.
- NSF Audit Summary – Data Analytics (Russ Price)
Mark relayed a recent case of an NSF audit at a California institution. The discussion focused on how to identify weaknesses, eliminating them, and then strengthening internal controls. In the coming months, the USU SPO team will work with business managers and the way business transactions are handled. Conversations will take place across the university to assure that a complete analysis of business processes and continuous training is addressed.

5. **Old Business: None**

6. **Committee of the Whole Discussion**

- Core Facilities (continuation)
- Annual Equipment Matching Fund (continuation)

7. **Reconvene Committee - New Business**

- None

8. **Wrap Up Discussion & Calendar Events – Mark McLellan**

- January 24 – Next Research Council (No Research Council in December)
- January 31 – Undergraduate Research on Capitol Hill (Capitol Rotunda)
- February 1, – Next Sunrise Session, Little America Hotel, Salt Lake City
Douglas Jackson-Smith: College of Humanities and Social Sciences
- February 26, 2013 – Next Grad Student Grant Writing Workshop
- April 8-12, 2013 – Research Week

Minutes submitted by: Teresa Seeholzer, Research Council Secretary
