



**Research Council Minutes
October 22, 2009
3:00 p.m.
Champ Hall Conference Room**

RESEARCH COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

Brent Miller, Chair
Cliff Skousen
for Douglas Anderson
Byron Burnham
Flora Schrode
for Richard Clement

John Allen
for Yolanda Flores Niemann
Todd Crowl (via IVC)
for Nat Frazer
Jagath Kaluarachchi
for Scott Hinton

Niel Holt
for Doug Lemon
Jim MacMahon
Mac McKee
Jim Dorward
for Carol Strong
Vincent Wickwar

GUESTS:

DeeVon Bailey
Jeff Broadbent
Aaron Davis

Todd Redman
for Ben Croshaw (ASUSU)
Thomas Higbee
Rick Kelly
Ben Lignugaris/Kraft

Irene Jorgensen
Joyce Kinkead
David Paul
Teresa Seeholzer
Lorraine Walker

1. **Approval of Minutes of October 22, 2009** - Minutes approved unanimously.
2. **Welcome & Introductions** - Brent Miller
3. **Presentation by: Dr. Thomas Higbee - "The ASSERT Program: Building school district capacity for educating children with autism through graduate, undergraduate, and in-service training."**

Autism is the fastest growing disability category in the U.S. and occurs in ~ 1 /150 births. Dr. Higbee leads USU's ASSERT program with focus on education, research, and training. Researchers are making excellent advances in developing productive educational and behavioral interventions for both children and adults with autism. USU's ASSERT techniques have been implemented in many Utah schools with plans to expand. Future directions include increasing state and federal funding, expand research productivity, outreach and training, and build USU's reputation.

4. **Center for High Performance Computing (HPC)** - Nate Benson

HPC at USU was created in September 2005 and reports to the VP for Research. Computational resources consist of 64 nodes, but the Wasatch cluster has 16 Gbyte of memory per node that doubles the capacity of the Uintah cluster. Nate detailed USU's storage, visualization and software resources and explained the benefits these resources provide at no charge to USU faculty, staff and students. USU has an average active HPC user community of 50 -100 users at any given time from many departments across campus.

HPC at USU plays a significant role in research capabilities as well as collaborating opportunities with colleagues' offsite.

5. **GSS Research Grant** – Aaron Davis

Part of the graduate student budget for the 2009/2010 academic year has been allocated for a graduate student research grant. This funding opportunity will be available at \$ 1000 each to twelve (12) graduate students for the purpose of helping them pursue and broaden their research that they could not otherwise do without this funding assistance. More information about this grant can be obtained on the USU GSS website at: <http://www.usu.edu/usugss/scholarships.php> - Due date for the grant application is November 30, 2009, with awards being made in mid December, 2009.

6. **International Program Development Update** – DeeVon Bailey

International research and education has now been combined in one office, the **Utah State Office of Global Engagement**. Teamed with DeeVon Bailey, Associate V.P. for International Research, is Mary Hubbard, Vice Provost for International Education. Activities will now be coordinated to assure synergy with international guests and program development. With excellent connections in many countries, USU has several successful research projects that are new and in the early stages of implementation, many that are midway in their progression, and several that are wrapping up across the globe. USU's world class recognition as a land-grant institution and the expertise of its faculty, generate opportunities to expand research and education internationally.

7. **ARRA Proposals, Awards, and Reporting Requirements** – David Paul & Irene Jorgensen

USU has exceeded \$77 million in total proposals that have been submitted for ARRA opportunities, of which \$22 million were USURF proposals. Thus far, \$10.5 million has resulted in actual awards, with the Research Foundation receiving \$ 3.2 million of the total. David commented that some of the awards are approved only for the first year of funding so the award balance will be contingent on winning awards in subsequent years. USU's first report was due on October 10, 2009. Irene commented that there was a learning curve with the initial report and interpreting what the Federal Government wanted in these reports. The first report cycle is now complete and the majority of requested information was obtained from USU's financial system. The remaining information came from reports by each PI. USU was able to acquire all information requested and is currently 100% compliant.

Comment: Jeff Broadbent referenced that the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities (APLU) has asked Universities to establish a dedicated website to highlight the impact of ARRA funding at Universities. USU now posts this information on the VPR website at: <http://research.usu.edu/htm/arra>. Additional reports showing fiscal year proposal and award progress can be viewed on SPO's website at: <http://spo.usu.edu/htm/monthly-board-of-trustee-reports>. Each month an email is sent to the deans and center directors to alert when updates to these reports are available.

8. **Nonpayment of Sponsored Awards Update** – Brent Miller & Irene Jorgensen

The Nonpayment of Sponsored Awards Procedure has been updated to include comments from September's Research Council. This issue, along with the procedure and associated documents, will be presented at Executive Committee on October 28, 2009. Brent commented that flow chart attachments have been added to the procedure to visualize the

process. These revisions, as well as those requested from Executive Committee, will be updated and reviewed at Research Council on November 19th.

9. EPSCoR Progress/Update – Jim MacMahon & Jagath Kaluarachchi

Utah's Track I RII proposal progressed rapidly in a 6 week time frame and was submitted on schedule. The proposal was multi university and multi disciplinary, focused on energy, the environment, and STEM. Jim commented that the collaboration and preparation of the proposal went very well. Utah State is represented on almost all of the programs within this proposal, with one of the five major programs to be managed at USU. Additionally, the STEM program will be managed at USU under the direction of Christine Hailey. If the proposal is funded, USU will receive important infrastructure equipment such as a scanning electron microscope. The awards will be set to provide 2 years of initial funding, with a potential 3rd year based on performance. NSF notification of winning awards will take place sometime in May 2010. The next step will be for the state Track II C2 proposal to be prepared. USU will be represented on this proposal by Alex Boldyrev participating and Nate Benson.

10. Wrap Up Discussion & Calendar Events – Brent Miller

- The 2010 Research Calendar has been finalized and sent to the printer. Distribution will take place the first week of December.
- The Council for Advancement and Support of Education (CASE) recently had their annual awards. The 2009 USU Research Calendar received the bronze medal recognition.
- The question was asked about possible FY2011 USU furloughs and implementation plans. Brent Miller will follow up with the President's Office and provide feedback at January's Research Council. Todd Crowl commented that NSF has recently implemented a policy change relative to furloughs that will allow PIs to augment salaries, beyond the typical 1-2 months, to help cover furloughs.
- The January 2010 agenda will include discussion and follow up information on Graduate Student Health Insurance, and an update on the RTI survey on fellowships (doctoral and post docs).
- Events:
 - NSF Regional Grants Conference – October, 2010 – Salt Lake City
 - November 2, 2009 – Deadline for D. Wynne Thorne Nominations
 - November 3, 2009 – Abstracts for Undergraduate Research at Capitol due
 - November 10, 2009 – CUR Posters on the Hill Abstracts Due
 - November 19, 2009 – Next Research Council (3rd Thursday due to Thanksgiving)
 - 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

Meeting adjourned at 4:35 p.m.

Minutes submitted by: Teresa Seeholzer, Research Council Secretary