



**Research Council Minutes
October 21, 2010 - 3:00 p.m.
Champ Hall Conference Room**

RESEARCH COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

Brent Miller, Chair
Byron Burnham
Flora Schrode
for Richard Clement
Cliff Skousen
for Jeffrey Doyle
Marv Bennett
Noelle Cockett

Bryce Fifield
Jim Dorward
for Beth Foley
Todd Crowl
for Nat Frazer
Jagath Kaluarachchi
for Scott Hinton

Pat Gantt
for Patricia Lambert
Nicholas Morrison
for Craig Jessop
Jim MacMahon
Mac McKee
Robert Pack
Ned Weinschenker

GUESTS:

DeeVon Bailey
Lisa Berreau
Jeff Broadbent
Dan Christensen
Irene Jorgensen

Joyce Kinkead
Silvana Martini
Anna McEntire
Russ Price
Whitney Pugh

Teresa Seeholzer
Robert Spall
Amanda Shorts
Lorraine Walker
Tanner Wright

1. **Approval of Minutes of September 16, 2010** - Minutes approved unanimously.
2. **Welcome & Introductions** - Brent Miller
3. **Research Presentation: Silvana Martini, Assistant Professor – Nutrition , Dietetics & Food Sciences** Title: “**Food Structure, Chemical Composition, and Sensory Perception**”

The objectives of Dr. Martini’s research focus on what drives food quality and the parameters, conditions and aspects of food that make it desirable, stable and nutritional. The main components of high quality food are based on sensory perception, nutrition, physical and chemical stability and microbiology. High Intensity Ultrasound (HIU) and additives are used in her research; results show that physiochemical characteristics of food can be changed by these processing conditions. Her research also studies the relationship between physiochemical and sensory properties to understand the interaction between lipids and tastants and why some products taste better than others. Because sensory properties of foods are strongly dependent on food composition and processing conditions, her research will continue to focus on these properties to understand the molecular mechanisms associated with these findings.

4. **Decision About New Faculty Startup Funding – Brent Miller**

At September’s Research Council, a memo was reviewed and options discussed to clarify the New Faculty Start-up Budget Form. It was suggested that the dean, department head, and potentially the faculty candidate all sign the form. Further input addressed funding support and if amounts should be proportionally set based on the level of research outlined in the candidate’s role statement. Brent distributed an email survey to department heads on September 29, 2010, asking for input and suggestions. He summarized the responses on a handout (names withheld) and

noted that the majority agreed with having the dean and department signatures, but not the candidate's signature.

Action Item: Nicholas Morrison made a motion to amend the NFSU budget form to require both the dean and department head signature, but not the candidate's signature. Cliff Skousen seconded the motion. Motion approved unanimously.

There were divided opinions and no clear consensus regarding funding amounts being proportional to the research allocation in the role statement. Additional clarification will take place relative to the ideas discussed, and the topic will again be addressed at November's Research Council.

5. **NSF Regional Grants Conference (Reminder) – Jeff Broadbent**

October 25-26 – Hilton City Center, Salt Lake City. To date, 216 participants have registered, of which 89 are from USU and 29 from the U of U. NSF is pleased that participation numbers have increased 25% for this conference as compared to those held at the same time frame in previous years.

6. **Undergraduate Research Advisory Board (URAB) Annual Report – Lisa Berreau**

The URAB Board, established in the spring of 2007, consists of faculty representatives from each college, various units across campus, and USU Research Fellows. Several goals were set and accomplished last year which included: 1) Encouraging departments and colleges to enhance online information and resources about UR, 2) Explore options for enhancing UR funding at USU, and 3) Organized information about UR in USU curriculum. Also noted was the celebration of USU's 35th Anniversary of UR and the implementation of Humanities UR Assistant Grants to increase the number of students in the humanities fields doing scholarship and research. Goals for 2010/2011 include: 1) Support for UCUR application to CUR NSF-CCL1 program toward institutionalizing UR, 2) Continue efforts toward mapping curriculum aligned with UR, and 3) Foster efforts toward creation of an *Undergraduate Research Journal*. Lisa noted important UR outcomes in 2010 by recognizing the USU students who were Goldwater Honorees (3), NSF Graduate Fellows (4), Rhodes applicants (2), and (1) as a Truman Finalist.

7. **Research Office PR/Marketing Projects 2010/2011 – Anna McEntire**

Anna shared a handout listing the Research PR/Marketing projects covered each year. These projects are provided to enhance, increase focus, and raise the profile of research at USU. The marketing mix is carefully chosen each year to highlight both on and off campus audiences. Several publications are selected with the goal of maximizing their effectiveness, and then repurposing the stories for different types of uses throughout the year. Anna shared copies of the 2011 USU Research Calendar which highlights 12 months of research stories across campus. To bring additional visibility to USU's research, copies of the calendar will be shared at this week's NSF conference, along with posters spotlighting researchers who have received recent NSF funding, or who have been recognized as new NSF Career Award recipients.

8. **Leave Accrual Pool for Research Accounts - Brent Miller**

As follow up from September's meeting, Brent distributed a 2-page memo prepared by Mac McKee, Marv Bennett and Bryce Fifield that summarized the challenges with "leave benefits" for research personnel who are paid on "soft-money" and must use their acquired leave within the time frame approved for the project. Numerous discussions have taken place on how to address the challenges and the option of implementing a "leave pool" has been recommended. Rick Allen gave an overview of the requirements and process for creating a leave pool and noted that it must be approved by ONR prior to implementation. Robert Pack asked how a leave pool would affect the budget template for Sponsored Programs relative to benefit rate percentages. Rick Allen mentioned that rate adjustments might be necessary as well as transitional steps, but it could be a wash because salary funds would not be used. Rick acknowledged that there will be pros and cons, but overall a leave pool is a better allocation process.

Action Item: Robert Pack motioned to proceed with the next steps to establish a leave pool at USU. Jim MacMahon seconded the motion. Motion approved unanimously.

Brent Miller and Rick Allen will meet with USU's Vice President for Business and Finance, David Cowley, to present the information and discuss the requirements for moving forward. Once the details are outlined, the information will be presented to USU's VP Council and/or Executive Committee for review and consideration. Brent will update Research Council on the status as information becomes available. The target date for implementation will be July 1, 2011.

9. Wrap Up Discussion & Calendar Events – Brent Miller

- Ned Weinschenker invited Research Council to tour the new USU Bioinnovations building. Holding November's Research Council at Innovation Campus will be considered, along with the option to have a tour after the meeting.
- Irene Jorgensen gave an update on Time and Effort Reports. There were 1,437 certifications distributed, of which 92% were returned on time, 6% thereafter, with 2% still pending. Actions are taking place to resolve those pending and Irene noted that the certification process has shown great improvement as compared to last year.
- **October 25-26** --- NSF Regional Grants Conference – Hilton, Salt Lake City
- **October 27** – Celebrate Undergraduate Research (in honor of the merger of CUR/NCUR, celebrated at the Library of Congress in DC, with UR displays in the colleges)
- **October 29** – USU Sunrise Session: Little America Hotel, Salt Lake City
 - Presenter: Robert Behunin
 - Topic: "Sustaining Energy Development in Eastern Utah: USU's Bingham Entrepreneurship and Energy Research Center"
- **November 1:** Deadline for many Undergraduate Research Conferences
 - Research on Capitol Hill, UCUR, Posters on the Hill, NCUR
- **November 1:** Deadline for D. Wynne Thorne Career Research Award Nominations
- **November 18** - Next Research Council (No Research Council in December)
- **March 28 thru April 1** – Research Week 2011

Meeting adjourned at 4:35 p.m.

Minutes submitted by: Teresa Seeholzer, Research Council Secretary