



**Research Council Minutes
September 16, 2010 - 3:00 p.m.
Champ Hall Conference Room**

RESEARCH COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

Brent Miller, Chair
Brad Hall
for Patricia Lambert
Cliff Skousen
for Jeffrey Doyle
Marv Bennett
Noelle Cockett

Jim Dorward
for Beth Foley
Nat Frazer
Jagath Kaluarachchi
for Scott Hinton
Eric Hawley
for M.K. Jeppesen

Nicholas Morrison
for Craig Jessop
Lisa Berreau
for Jim MacMahon
Mac McKee
Robert Pack
Ned Weinshenker

GUESTS:

DeeVon Bailey
Jeff Broadbent
Layne Coppock
Jeff Coleman
Dan Christensen

Irene Jorgensen
Joyce Kinhead
Russ Price
Whitney Pugh
Matthew Todd

Teresa Seeholzer
Robert Spall
Lorraine Walker
Tanner Wright

1. **Approval of Minutes of April 22, 2010** - Minutes approved unanimously.
2. **Welcome & Introductions** - Brent Miller
3. **EPSCOR Update – Brent Miller**
With Utah approved as an EPSCoR state, collaboration efforts are underway among Utah's Higher Education Institutions to resubmit a Track I research and outreach proposal. This proposal will focus on developing a program to enhance research and human infrastructure capacities relative to how human population growth, changing climate, and altered land use are affecting sustainability of desert, urban, and montane ecosystems in the arid region, with specific attention on both air and water quality. The project PI is Jim Ehleringer from the U of U with several USU CoPIs which include Michelle Baker, David Tarboton, and Janis Boettinger. This proposal also includes an outreach component to increase statewide participation in STEM by learners of all ages; Jim Dorward plays a key role in this area. Submission deadline is October 4, 2010, with total funding of ~ \$ 4.8 x 5 years = \$24 million.
4. **NSF Regional Grants Conference (Hosted by USU and U of U, SLC) – Jeff Broadbent**
Details about the conference were distributed to deans and department heads on June 23, 2010. Jeff shared the draft agenda for the October 25-26 program (Hilton City Center, Salt Lake City), along with a listing of NSF staff who will participate in the conference. Thus far, registrants for the conference include participants from 24 institutions, not including USU and the U of U.
5. **Major Research Equipment – Jeff Broadbent**
Concerns have been raised that numerous faculty do not have access to major research equipment, nor has information been compiled to identify what equipment is available across campus for all users. With input from several departments, a listing of major research equipment has been compiled including a brief description of the equipment, contact information, and who is

the assigned steward. The steward of each item is not tasked to aid faculty in experimental design or interpretation. This list has been shared with deans and department heads and Jeff commented that he is available to help facilitate ways to enhance use of these resources. If the equipment resides in service centers, a fee would be required to access it. When other equipment is identified, this list will be updated and redistributed. Jeff proposed that a Major Research Advisory Group be formed to review faculty needs so that USU can be more strategic pursuing major research equipment. Jagath Kaluarachchi mentioned that Engineering has just begun similar discussions and will work with Jeff to expand this dialog.

6. **HPC Update & Video – Bob Spall**

Bob shared a handout which detailed HPC client usage by college and department. Depending on semesters, HPC clients have ranged from 50-90 users. September 2010 has been the highest thus far with 78-85 new user requests. To date, funded awards using HPC resources is \$3,541,373. A video was shared of USU students sharing their comments on how HPC is an important resource to students at USU.

7. **New Faculty Startup Budget Form – Brent Miller**

The Research Office partners with colleges in startup funding for new faculty. Brent shared a draft revision to modify the existing budget form. Changes proposed would include additional text about what steps are required to complete the form, signature approval lines, and information about resources the Research Office supports. Nat Frazer suggested the form be revised further to mention “other cost centers” that might be sharing in the start-up costs, as well as changing the “faculty name” section to “candidate name”, because this form is often used during the negotiation process. Discussion on this topic will continue at October’s Research Council. Brent asked for input about funding percentages for research faculty, to be forwarded to either himself or Lorraine Walker in advance of next month’s meeting. Additionally, this form will be shared with department heads for their input prior to October’s meeting.

8. **Seed Funding Recap – July 1, 2010 - Jeff Broadbent**

On July 8, a memo was sent to the deans recapping the seed funding awards for July 1, 2010. Jeff shared this memo and thanked the review team that participated in the review process for the July 2010 submissions (Lisa Berreau, Silvana Martini, Jim Dorward, Eddy Berry, Todd Crowl and Jagath Kaluarachchi). Jeff commented that although the overall number of submissions was fewer this last round, the quality of applications was very high. The success rate for RC grants was 77% for this round, which is the highest to date. Additionally, several multidisciplinary projects involving junior faculty and senior colleagues were submitted in this last round.

Jeff shared outcomes through September 2010 for USU’s Seed Grant Program. Awardees are required to develop and submit at least one proposal to an external funding agency within three months of project completion. At the end of the first cohort of awards, 16 external proposals totaling more than \$14.6 million have been submitted. Six awards totaling \$ 9.3 million were received, resulting in a \$37:1 ratio for return on investment, and 4 proposals are still pending. The second cohort of awardees was March 31, 2010, where 19 proposals totaling \$8.8 million have been submitted to external agencies. Of those, 4 proposals have been awarded for a total of \$2.3 million, resulting in a \$10:1 return. Jeff also stated that from this second cohort, 2 members have received NSF Career Awards. Two proposals are still pending from this group, six were not funded, and two have been resubmitted. The third cohort is in process and to date, 11 proposals, totaling \$4,841,815, have been submitted.

9. **Recap of New Faculty Research Orientation – Joyce Kinkead**

Thirty-five new faculty attended this year’s training on August 24 to learn more about research support services. Topics covered included: Student Research, International Programs, Grant Funding and Proposal Development, Sponsored Programs, Research Integrity, Library Resources, High Performance Computing, IP and TCO Resources, Environmental Health and Safety, IRB and Human Research, and Animal Welfare. Russ Price directed an afternoon session on Research

Mentoring with excellent participation by both new and existing faculty. Joyce mentioned that each participant received a copy of the *2010 Research Handbook*. A copy of this handbook is available online at: <http://research.usu.edu/files/uploads/ResearchHandbook2010web.pdf>

10. International Programs Update – DeeVon Bailey

A summary document was shared of active and recently completed international projects. DeeVon mentioned various activities underway in Mozambique, South America, and Mongolia and referenced one project focused on the development and capacity building for water management in the river basins of Peru where USU's Water Research Lab and The Jon M. Huntsman School of Business are involved.

11. Research Presentation: Overview of PARIMA Project 1997-2009 - Layne Coppock

This project took place in southern Ethiopia and northern Kenya. It is focused on reducing human vulnerability which results when capital assets (livestock) are lost during drought. The key is rural livelihood diversification for sustainability. This project began with funding from a USU Faculty Research Grant, with the majority of support coming thereafter from USAID CRSP grants. Collective action, micro-finance, market access and education has propelled that society into a different level of engagement. The message of this project is to *"Build human and social capital."* Commissioned by UC-Davis, a film has been produced that captures the non-traditional research/outreach links of this project. This film was viewed by those attending Research Council.

12. Time & Effort Reporting – Irene Jorgensen

During the week of August 20, 2010, 1,437 Time and Effort Certifications were distributed across campus. To date, 21% have been completed and returned. Irene asked Research Council participants to remind their college PIs that the deadline for these certifications is September 30, 2010. A reminder email will be sent to department heads.

13. Leave & Related Benefits for non E&G Employees – Brent Miller

Mac McKee explained a problem that exists relative to how leave benefits are covered for soft money employees. Examples were shared and discussed. Dan Christensen stated that a committee has been formed to review the issues, but to date solutions to the various stumbling blocks (early retirement pool/source of funding, reports) have not been decided. Mac commented that fixing this issue should not depend on E&G funds. A task group will be formed to assist the committee reviewing the issues and an update will be provided at a future meeting.

14. Wrap Up Discussion & Calendar Events – Brent Miller

Brent announced to Research Council that he'll be stepping down as Vice President for Research on June 30, 2011.

- September 24, 2010 – BEERC Building Dedication/Ribbon Cutting
- October 7, 2010 – USTAR Building Dedication/Ribbon Cutting
- Next Research Council: October 21, 2010 - 3:00 p.m.
- NSF Regional Grants Conference, October 25-26, 2010

Meeting adjourned at 4:50 p.m.

Minutes submitted by: Teresa Seeholzer, Research Council Secretary