



**Utah State
University**
OFFICE OF RESEARCH AND GRADUATE STUDIES
Research Council Minutes
September 22, 2011 - 3:00 p.m.
Graduate School Conference Room

RESEARCH COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mark McLellan, Chair
John Allen
Cliff Skousen
for Doug Anderson
Jennifer Duncan
for Richard Clement

Noelle Cockett
Jim Dorward
for Bryce Fifield
Beth Foley
Jagath Kaluarachchi
for Scott Hinton & Mac McKee

Nick Morrison
for Craig Jessop
Jim MacMahon
Robert Pack

VISITORS:

Jeff Broadbent
Shelley Lindauer

Teresa Seeholzer
Brian Steed

Kim Taylor
Lorraine Walker

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

2. **Approval of the Agenda**

- Two items were added to the agenda to include: 1) Credits to PhD, and 2) Tuition Awards.
- Mark McLellan noted that the agenda for Research Council will now include a section titled “Committee of the Whole.” During this allocation of time, no minutes are taken so that Research Council can openly discuss ideas and challenges as a group. No motions can be made or voted upon during this time.
- **ACTION:** The agenda, with additions, unanimously approved.

3. **ACTION: Approval of Minutes of April 28, 2011** - Minutes approved unanimously.

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

- Office Merger - The integration of the Research Office and the School of Graduate Studies is now complete and formally identified as the Office of Research and Graduate Studies. Mark McLellan, Vice President for Research and Dean of the School of Graduate Studies, is joined by Jeff Broadbent and Shelley Lindauer, who both share the same title of Associate Vice President for Research and Associate Dean of Graduate Studies. Mark, Jeff and Shelley work closely together as the core decision team. With the office merger, the goal is to enhance research and the graduate experience at Utah State University with balance, focus and training.
- Grantsmanship Program – To augment the Grant Writer’s Institute at USU, Mark announced that the Office of Research and Graduate Studies will be offering a grantsmanship training opportunity for faculty (December 1) and graduate students (April 17). Training will be

conducted by Grant Writers Limited (www.grantcentral.com). Mark commented that he has worked with this company in the past (Texas A&M and University of Florida) and mentioned that their training methods are exceptional. This will be an intensive eight hour course of instruction focused on “writing to the review process.” Approximately 125 participant slots will be open for each session, and the RGS Office will cover all expenses (including lunch and breaks). More information about registration will be forthcoming, and faculty across campus will be notified when registration is open. Availability will be on a “first come-first serve basis” and participants will be expected to stay the entire day.

- High Performance Computing (HPC) – Mark met with the HPC Advisory Board leadership to understand the operational interface of HPC at USU. Mark relayed that HPC is running smooth at this time, and he believes USU has a strong leadership team. Future requests to invest additional hardware will be reviewed, along with options for cost alternatives. Concerns or suggestions to improve HPC at USU should be directed to Mark McLellan.
- EPSCoR Update (Jeff Broadbent) – Last year, Utah and Wyoming partnered for a Track II Infrastructure Improvement Award. Since last April’s Research Council, USU has learned that this award has been granted and will soon be issued. Additional information about the award, along with co-funding award information, can be viewed on NSF’s website. The revised Utah Track I proposal, led by USU PI Todd Crowl, is moving along quickly with several experts involved (Due: November 4). Jeff relayed that Suzanne Winters has been selected as the State’s EPSCoR Director (GOED). Utah has contracted with Batelle to draft the State’s Science and Technology Plan. Utah’s S&T plan will not be completed by the time the Track I proposal is due, but the State will have enough information available to relay with confidence that the themes noted in the Track I proposal are captured in the State’s S&T plan. USU has also hired Rita Teutonico (formerly of NSF) as the Lead Science Coordinator for EPSCoR. She is partially funded by the University of Utah and is overseeing EPSCoR opportunities.

5. **Old Business** -

- Leave Accrual Update – no action

6. **Committee of the Whole Discussions**

- Change in Program Dollars
- PARC + Banner = Happy Faculty
- Leave Accrual Pool
- Credit to PhD/Graduate Program Review
- Tuition Awards
- New Fellowships

7. **New Business** - None raised

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

- October 15 – Deadline for next round of RC/SPARC/GEM and URCO funding
- October 27 – Next Research Council
- October 28 – Sunrise Session: 7:30-9:00 a.m. – Little America Hotel, Salt Lake City
Noelle Cockett, Dean - College of Agriculture
“Sheep Genomics: Lessons Learned from Science”

Minutes submitted by: Teresa Seeholzer, Research Council Secretary