

Research Council Minutes
October 29th, 2020
3:30 pm – 5:00 pm WebEx

VOTING:

Jason Carter

Mary Miles

Mary Cloninger

Ron June

Brent Peyton/Robin Gerlach

Michael Brody

Sarah Shannon

Colin Shaw

Nicole Tuss

Blake Wiedenheft

Carl Yeoman

Nicholas Childs

NON-VOTING:

Craig Ogilvie

Chris Kearns/ Jim Mitchell

Terry Leist

Robert Mokwa/ David Singel

Leslie Schmidt

Jonathan Hilmer

Jayne Morrow

VP Jason Carter called the meeting to order at 3:31 pm.

1. Announcements

Sarah Shannon moved to approve the minutes; Ron June seconded. The minutes were approved unanimously.

2. FY20 Year-In-Review Session (J. Carter)

VP Carter shared with Research Council a Powerpoint presentation for the FY20 Year-In-Review session. The conversation focused on the levels of research operations, FY 20 expenditures, highlighted accomplishments in each of the four Grand Challenges, and shared updates on the COVID research and outreach efforts across campus.

3. Update and feedback on following VPREDGE sessions:

Grand Challenge workshop series (J. Morrow)

- Jayne Morrow shared feedback on the virtual Grand Challenge workshop series which was held the week of Oct 26-30, 2020. A panel of internal and external speakers shared their insights on Applied Research opportunities and strategies.
- Goal is to have similar workshop series on each of the Grand Challenges areas. We are also looking for the opportunities to summarize internships, fellowships for faculty and students as well as ways for increased engagement, professional development and to build opportunities to target relationships with foundations and industry.
- Nikki Tuss thought that the workshop had been a great success. Ron June echoed Nikki's comment. We might want to look at the attendee list to see if we have reached the right faculty. Jayne agreed with Ron and noted that we had distributed a survey that will provide the attendees' affiliations.

- VP Carter thought about the next Grand Challenge area will likely to be in the sector of health and wellness. The recorded workshop series will be sent to the RC to help provide suggestions on the ideas.

Research Compliance session (K. Lubick)

- Kirk thanked VP Carter for the opportunity to host the “Navigating Research Compliance During the Pandemic” session. This was the way for ORC to reach out to faculty and researchers about available services, and to get input on what is needed.

ARC and Use Fee session (J. Carter, K. Lubick & S. Sward)

- VP Carter shared that Sandy Sward led a conversation with the faculty on the ARC and Use Fees. To avoid causing problems with the current projects, VPREDGE office will cover differential between new and old rates for currently funded research projects. New rates will begin Jan 1, 2021.
- Sandy gave an example of the calculation process to help clarify what that differential is. VP Carter appreciated the input and insights to help figure out the reasonable process to adjust those rates. The broad goal is to charge the grants and use the previous subsidy to upgrade the facility.

Other Announcements

- Provost Mokwa asked for some suggestions and ideas for the Provost Lecture for next spring. The lecture has changed this year since COVID from having it at the Hager Auditorium, MOR to a VDO presentation with PBS help. He thought it would be of great interest to have speakers in the lab.

4. **Finalize ad hoc committees for:**

VP Carter asked Research Council to finalize the two ad hoc committees.

- a. Strategic plan – Metric 2.1.2
- b. Spring Convocation award review

5. **Updates on ePAF/bi-weekly pay, MUS hiring moratorium, and research benefits initiative**

- VP Carter shared an update on a small group conversation with Max Thompson on switching funding sources dateline with Bi-weekly payroll process. Max clarified that reserachers could update the allocation the day before the final day of the pay period submission. As part of the Bi-weekly payroll meeting, VP Carter asked Nikki Tuss to share her thoughts. Nikki thought that it was helpful for HR to hear about the distribution changes concern. Nikki will also forward the email information that HR put together after the meeting to the Research Council.

- VP Carter updated about MUS hiring moratorium. To date, all research related position requests have eventually been approved. There had been some initial hold-ups for approval, but the waiting time has been significantly reduced.
- VP Carter updated on questions about COVID leave for grant-funded individuals. The President approved to establish this research benefit initiative. We will have a conversation throughout this academic year. Then potentially start the pooled sick leave, annual leave for researchers, research professionals by the fiscal year 2022.

6. November VPREDGE WebEx – OSP budgets (including panel discussion on modular vs. nonmodular for NIH)

- VP Carter thought about having a WebEx session in November focusing on tackling complex budgets; how to think through a grant, how to anticipate costs.

7. Other/Future Items?

VP Carter suggested three future agenda items for the next RC meeting

- FY21 budget overview, different investment categories that we are investing in
- Revisiting about limited submissions expectation
- Conversation to look at the make up of Research Council model structure

Meeting adjourned at 4:30 pm

Next Research Council Meeting: December 3rd, 2020 3:00 pm