

Research Council Minutes

October 23, 2024

3:30 – 5:00pm

President's Conference Room

VOTING:

Alison Harmon

Mary Miles

Mary Cloninger/Robert Walker

Ron June

Brent Peyton/Robin Gerlach

Molly Secor Turner

Brian Gillespie/Maritza Espina

Doralyn Rossmann

Michael Reidy

Stephanie McCalla/Anja Kunze

Darin Boss

Sreekala Bajwa

Anna Tuttle

Nicole Tuss

Blake Wiedenheft

Carl Yeoman

Jean Korth

Michaela Johnson

Amanda Haab

Andrew Vernoooy

Jeff Heys

Lenny Triem

NON-VOTING:

Craig Ogilvie

Steve Swinford/Michael Ouert

Terry Leist

Robert Mokwa/Durward Sobek

Sandra Sward

Ryan Knutson/

Coltran Hophan-Nichols

Becca Belou

Kirk Lubick

Liz Shanahan

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- Approval of August 2024 Minutes- Dr. Sreekala Bajwa motioned to approve, and Dr. Mary Miles seconded. The minutes were approved unanimously.
 - Introductions and news from the field (All)
 - New RC member- Lenny Triem represents the ASMSU.
 - New goals for Research Council (Alison Harmon)
 1. Developing guidance for research faculty
 2. Creating a platform for USP applications
 3. Encouraging Departmental Seminars to include internal and external speakers
 4. Completing lab sustainability audit
 5. Encouraging completion of chemical inventories by relevant PIs
 6. Establishing security training for an NSPM-33 Compliance
 7. Integrating and implementing new research administration software
 8. Communicating updated uniform guidance to PIs
 9. Creating best practices for requesting institutional support.
 - Mary Cloninger asked about developing broader/visionary goals vs. technical goals, and we discussed that this might be part of developing the next strategic plan. We will revisit this at future RC meetings.

- Core Facility Highlight: Center for Biofilm Engineering- Imaging & Analytics Cores (Heidi Smith and Kristen Connolly)
 - Bioimaging & Analytical Core are 2 Cores and function as one located in Barnard Hall
 - Highlighting their role as a training facility, user base, and update of their equipment
 - 112 users from 13 departments in FY 24. Served 37 PIs and billed 78 indices. 70 of these users were students.
 - Equipment highlight and share overview of CBE Bioimaging Core and CBE Analytical Core
 - Grant update – Got awarded the core facility grant and submitted a proposal to external grant funding to support new instruments, an ion chromatography system, and an x-ray microscope for research needs.

- Fiscal Year 2024 Review (Tawnya Morgan)
 - NSF HERD survey research expenditures for FY 24 is \$257.9 million.
 - The average IDC rate collected is almost 20%
 - Total FY 24 IDCs invested \$33M
 - Building expenses is the most significant expense, followed by colleges/institutes/facilities

- Discussion topic: What are the indicators that a research center/institute is thriving? (Alison Harmon)
 - Annual Review of Centers: accomplishments, highlights, goals, challenges, research expenditures
 - Setting up goals and strategic missions
 - Having undergraduate and graduate student support
 - Connection with industry relationship
 - Having some kind of output, publications, and published data set should also be included.
 - Returning investment side, funding awards
 - VP Harmon will draft something and share

- Research Administration Updates (Peggy Kastella)
 - Five demonstrations of the top five vendors, and the committee selected the top three after reviewing all the feedback.
 - The Committee will meet and move forward with the final decision after conducting reference checks this week.

- Research Development Updates (Liz Shanahan; Nicole Motzer)
 - Internal Grants update: 17 REF proposals, funding might be constraints but Six S&C proposals. Five proposals for the Core facility grant will be reviewed this week. Two proposals for the research collaboration have been expanded to all faculty, due next week.
 - The ORD office had a huge success hosting Congress Wants More EPSCoR: Get your Proposal Out the Door on Tuesday, October 22.
 - Virtual NSF Fireside chat dive deep into Use-Inspired research at the NSF will be on October 29th.

- DoD early career and young investigator program Webinar will be on November 5th,
- Research Compliance (Kirk Lubick)
 - ORC changing name to RIC “Research Integrity and Compliance”
 - Lab Sustainability program and website
 - Made efforts to promote lab sustainability, replacing older Energy-80 freezers with new Energy star-rated ULT freezers.
 - Conducted sustainability audit this summer to identify where labs can improve sustainability and reduce plastic waste.
 - Potential Initiatives in the next 6 months: Green Lab Program, Resource Sharing Program, ULT Freezer/Equipment Maintenance Information.
 - Reduction Initiatives such as automatic sensors, outlet timers, faucet aerators installed to reduce water waste, and resource sharing are being considered to reduce energy.
- Undergraduate Research (Anna Tuttle; Amanda Haab)
 - Undergraduate Research Fair had successfully turned out with 300-500 student attendees.
 - Encouraging students to apply for NCUR dateline is on December 6th.
 - USP has a record-breaking number of 100 proposals. Able to continue funding awards with generous contributions from CoE, CoA, CLS and mentorship programs.
- Graduate Research (Craig Ogilvie)
 - The first Mentoring Relationships Workshop went well but seek help to increase attendance and participation in the mentoring program for graduate students
 - Graduate School enrollment is steadily increasing, with doctoral students going up to a 4% increase from last year. The sustainable growth rate is 2-3% per year.
 - More diversity of graduate students than before. The recorded number of AI/AN grade students is 140, and the increase is 30.
 - Worked with Montana state economist with the tax record showed that net migration of graduate alumni to MT- 39% of MSU graduate students from Montana, and 55% work in Montana
- Other announcements
 - Next Meeting: November 20, 2024; President’s Conference Room
 - CLS dean search is progressing

RESEARCH EVENTS:

- PI Mandatory Training, November 6, 9:30 am, SUB Ballroom C
- Federal Initiatives Workshop PART 2, November 13, 10:00 am, NAH 153

- Table Talk: Research Security and International Travel; November 14, 11:30 am, NAH 359

994-Journeys Presentations for 2024-25:

- Joe Shaw- Tuesday, November 5, 4pm in SUB 235
- Alex Adams- Tuesday, January 7, 4pm in SUB 233
- Sreekala Bajwa- Tuesday, February 4, 4pm in SUB 235
- Sara Mast- Tuesday, March 4, 4pm in SUB 233
- Melissa Ragain- Tuesday, April 8, 4pm in SUB 233