

Research Council Minutes
February 25th, 2021
3:30pm – 5:00pm
via WebEx

VOTING:

Jason Carter	Sarah Shannon
Mary Miles	Colin Shaw
Mary Cloninger	Nicole Tuss
Ron June	Blake Wiedenheft
Brent Peyton/Robin Gerlach	Carl Yeoman
Michael Brody / Eric Austin	Nicholas Childs

NON-VOTING:

Craig Ogilvie
Chris Kearns/ Jim Mitchell
Terry Leist
Robert Mokwa/Durward Sobek
Leslie Schmidt
Jonathan Hilmer
Jayne Morrow
Liz Shanahan

Meeting called to order at 3:30 p.m.

1. Review and approval of minutes

- Minutes were unanimously approved.

2. Announcements/Updates

- VP Carter provided update we are now moved up to no. 93 from no. 101 among Public Research Universities per NSF HERD survey for FY19 report. The University Communications is working on the news story.
- VP Carter shared the names of three faculty who received grants in excess of \$1 million.
 - Alex Adams received \$1.8 million award from NIH grant for a COVID related project.
 - Carrie Ashe in Nutrition Education, received a grant from Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services for \$1.2 million.
 - Dan Stluka in College of Education Health and Human Development also received a grant from DPHHS.
- Blake Wiedenheft mentioned the Post-Doctoral Fellowships awards in Joan Broderick's labs, which don't get recognized enough because not many people know how competitive they are.
 - Craig Ogilvie sent out a congratulatory note, but it isn't as publicly announced.

- VP Carter will work on highlighting these Post-Doctoral awards to celebrate their successes and make them feel supported.
 - Nikki Tuss shared that MilTech will receive between \$5-6 million for the appropriation that Brant Baily worked on with SMI.
 - VP Carter shared that he asked Allen Harmsen to help facilitate one-hour brown bag session for the next NIH COBRE. Others who succeed with COBRE will be invited to join the conversation, then release RFP for the next cycle.
 - VP Carter shared Harmsen's suggestion in providing small seed fund which will allow the team to do extra investment process.
 - Ron agreed that the seed fund will help with preliminary data. It also shows institutional support that can be used in the support letter. In addition, Ron suggested to have an idea board to help organize the applications across the University.
3. Updates to Research Operations, including shared space and travel process (J. Carter/K. Lubick)
- Kirk Lubick gave an update on the change of the Research Operations, including travel in and out of state under the COVID travel guidelines. International travel is still prohibited. Finally, updates included how to approach shared lab space. The updated Research Operations & Information can be found on Office of Research Webpage.
 - Mary Miles asked for timeline when people become symptomatic and when to shut down the lab.
 - Kirk replied the timeframe is 7 days; if they have been in the lab, please contact ORC or Safety and Risk Management so potential exposures can be minimized.
 - Colin Shaw reported that there are REU students on campus as well as an international REU one which he had verified with Kirk. He also shared that there is a trip planned to Greenland but still negotiating with the Greenland government. If failed, students will be brought to MSU instead to do a lab based REU here.
 - VP Carter thanked those who were involved in the REU program. Terry Leist, Dan Stevenson and Tom Stump were very helpful in utilizing housing facilities for REU students.
4. Discussion on internal research grants process (J. Carter/L. Shanahan)
- VP Carter asked AVPR Shanahan and Lee Spangler to share their perspectives on REF, S&C and HAAS internal grant process. The deadline of the proposal submission still needs to be determined.
 - AVPR Shanahan shared that we don't have a lot of submissions for S&C grant. One of the ideas is to get the communication out to the Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences faculty. The review committee found it hard to make decisions with no comparison. Having the deadline will motivate more submissions.

- Lee supported the deadline that allows the awards to be made at the beginning of semester and the decisions are made at the end of previous semester. He also shared that the challenge for the REF award process is to get reviewers that have some relevant expertise.
- VP Carter shared the positive notes of those submissions that were denied, they were thankful for the comments. He complimented that both review committees did a good job on the review process and giving the feedback.
- VP Carter added that it will be helpful to have a deadline that will align with academic semester. The funding can be distributed at the start of the next academic year. He asked for feedback from the RC to help think about the deadline process and suggestions.
- Michael Brody pointed out the faculty senate could be part of giving feedback from diverse faculty and maybe voices that aren't typically heard in research community.
 - VP Carter will work with Michael to explore ways that Faculty senate can be engaged more in some of these conversations.
- Liz shared that we handled HASS award differently as it is the large amount of money. There is a need to think carefully about long-term impact and sustainability
- VP Carter added that S&C and REF have pretty similar scale. We can follow and track on an academic semester and award 5-8 per year. The HASS award is a big investment so there is a need to take time for the review process and only administer those funds once a year.

5. Grand Challenges – external metrics discussion (J. Carter)

- VP Carter reminded the RC about External Metrics for the Grand Challenges. The recommendation needs to be presented to the planning council and to the President by the end of this semester.
- VP Carter asked for RC members to join the ad hoc group for the discussion. AVPR Shanahan will be leading the conversation. We need someone from the environment, the health and wellness, food and fuel security and the national security to participate.

6. Other/Future Items?

- Ron June had question on research expansion program M-REID from legislature.

- VP Carter shared that the MREID fund got cut down from \$15 million to \$1 million. There is a possibility through the appropriations process that the number could increase yet.
- No further update. Meeting adjourned at 4:55 pm.

**Next Research Council Meeting: March 25th, 2021 3:30 pm
Via WebEx**