

Research Council Agenda

April 2, 2025
3:30pm – 5:00pm

President's Conference Room

VOTING:

Alison Harmon	Sreekala Bajwa
Mary Miles	Anna Tuttle
Mary Cloninger/Robert Walker	Nicole Tuss
Ron June	Blake Wiedenheft
Brent Peyton/Robin Gerlach	Jeff Heys
Molly Secor Turner	Jean Korth
Brian Gillespie/Maritza Espina	Michaela Johnson
Doralyn Rossmann	Lenny Triem
Michael Reidy	Andrew Vernoooy
Stephanie McCalla/Anja Kunze	
Darin Boss	

NON-VOTING:

Deborah Haynes
Steve Swinford/Michael Ouert
Terry Leist
Robert Mokwa/Durward Sobek
Sandra Sward
Ryan Knutson/
Coltran Hophan-Nichols
Becca Belou
Kirk Lubick
Liz Shanahan
Amanda Haab

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- Approval of March 2025 Minutes
 - Introductions and news from the field (All)
 - Today is the last meeting of this AY. The next RC meeting will be on September 3.
 - Quinton King, new Director of Research Security, will help integrate the different workflows: information, security, data security, and ensure the workflows' compliance with all the federal regulations.
 - PRESENTATION & DISCUSSION: Research Security Priorities (Quinton King)
 - Update: NSPM-33 (National Security Presidential Memorandum) directs Federal agencies and departments to focus on improving research security, particularly foreign government interference and exploitation of federally funded research.
 - Research Security Training is a priority.
 - Anticipate implementation with certification requests by summer 2026.
 - Update: Research Security Training
 - DOE and NSF's guidance- those who will be making proposals need to receive research security training.
 - MSU Training modules available- exploring hosting/delivery platforms to best allow tracking/reporting
 - Update: Controlled Unclassified Information (CUI) handling
 - CUI comes in various forms and is handled under NIST 800-171 standards.

- CUI created by or possessed by the government or on behalf of the government requires specific safeguarding.
 - Working with UIT to ensure that we have the capability to handle CUI.
 - MSU is exploring a cloud-based solution for housing CUI and engaging with consultants for system development.
- Emerging/Current Issues- FYSA: House Select Committee - Chinese Communist Party
 - This committee is strongly interested in university engagement with Chinese nationals and Chinese cultural exchange programs.
 - Montana Congressional pays attention, concerns about potential aligned influence on the research and using academic data for the Chinese context department.
 - MSU is engaged, transparent, and committed to compliance with applicable research security and export control obligations.
- Research Administration (Sandy Sward)
 - Update: Overview of stop-work orders and grant terminations - A handful of termination grants in DoD, EPA, NIH.
 - If you receive a notification of a termination, please forward it to the OSP. There have been some recessions of pauses.
 - The MMEC Director shared a letter from Wyoming's MMEC about the National Institute of Standards and Technology is ending the funding.
 - New information on Federal Funding Updates will be on our homepage.
 - Update: Current state of IDCs (Alison Harmon)
 - Positive news on the current state of IDC in the Q3 report, it caught up to last year. Only 4-5% decreased. Will be distributing 95% of the commitment from last year.
 - Tracking new awards and new proposals. These numbers are still down 40%.
 - Being cautious about making commitments for next year. Will distribute as IDCs come in, as opposed to committing at the beginning of the fiscal year.
 - Federal Funding Updates: [Federal Funding Updates - Office of Research & Economic Development | Montana State University](#) (Alison Harmon)
 - The cancellation of grants might still be continued, but we expected to be funded around \$40 million from FY 25 appropriations.
 - Higher expectation for FY 26 appropriations but won't know until next November.
- Research Integrity & Compliance (Kirk Lubick)
 - Molecular Biosciences Building
 - MSU bought MBB 4 years ago. Slowly occupied that building, a mixture of 50% external companies, 50% from MSU.
 - It can't be a high-end BSL3 building due to the expensive aspect
 - Will change name to Environmental Science Building.
 - Human Subject Database
 - Dr. Cara Palmer envisions a repository of human subjects.
 - Working with Gallatin County, and MSU communications on a recruitment flyer
- Research Development (Tracy Gatlin)

- Offering a new service to recommend to researchers how to move forward in proposals with new federal priorities.
- Upcoming events include:
 - NFS career day (Faculty Early Career Development Program) and NSF Broader Impacts Workshop, on April 9
 - Diversify Your Funding Portfolio on May 12, the collaboration of the Alumni Foundation, Office of Research Development, Economic Development, and Tech Transfer office will offer guidance and clarify MSU procedures when seeking extramural funding from corporations, foundations, and other non-federal entities. This will help MSU affiliates strategically diversify their funding portfolios.
 - The American Heart Association will be on campus on April 29 to give an overview to faculty, students, and researchers interested in hearing about funding opportunities, resources, peer review opportunities, etc.
- Economic Development (Mike Veselik)
 - Federal Initiatives update:
 - Submitted \$13 million requests to Senator Sheehy's Earmarks request.
 - There is a process for evaluating projects; capital projects and one-time expenses will be easier to fund.
 - Senator Sheehy highlighted the projects that align with law enforcement, national security projects, and some conservation works
 - Congressman Zinke and Downing are also carrying earmarks. Reach out to Mike if you have ideas on federal initiatives for earmarks.
 - Earmarks are one-year funds. A formal evaluation process will be set up to ensure that these projects are considered.
 - Five projects submitted for earmarks- the committee deadline will be mid-May to know what will be funded.
 - Industry engagement can be an alternative funding source. Include Mike in the discussion if interested.
 - Working with Mary Gauvin on marketing our core facilities to external entities. Core Facility reviews have attracted new customers, improving sustainability.
- Undergraduate Research (Anna Tuttle)
 - Able to take 13 Students to NCUR as they have found funding in various ways, plus the help from the Allen Yarnell Center for student success.
 - The student research celebration on April 24. 270 students across campus are presenting.
 - The student research council brought back the undergraduate research journal, Curiositas. Received a grant from the tech transfer office to help pay the editors
 - Reach out to USP about summer research. A lot of new opportunities are open up.
 - Lenny Triem, ASMSU president, is bringing a “peer-to-peer” research funding opportunity for undergraduate research.
 - Center of Faculty Excellence training- Effective Research Mentoring- 3-part series in May. Explore different subjects on how to best mentor graduate and undergraduate students in research.
- Other announcements

- Kirk is working on:
 - Core management software system- centralize and streamline equipment reservation.
 - Working with UIT and property management to develop a software system for the equipment that can be shared and utilized in the laboratories.
 - Lab managing Software for the Cores will be in the RFP in the next couple of weeks. Customer-focused and will help track, manage data and workflow.
 - If it is an external user, they have to create a facility use agreement and provide proof of insurance before using the space.
- Discussing the need to expand the library of agreements: we have testing service agreement and a facility usage agreement. Thinking about creating data research agreements, maybe tiers of facility use agreements based on equipment.
- Continue to work on lab sustainability, not only economic sustainability but also ecological sustainability.
- Guidelines are being developed for the appropriate use of AI and protecting university data.
- Concerns about international travel affecting research, refer to the Office of International Programs
- Think about big ideas for next year to start formulating the next set of research council goals.

RESEARCH EVENTS:

- NSF CAREER (Faculty Early Career Development Program) Day, Wednesday April 9, 10:30-1:30, 324 Renee Library (ORD) & Teams
- NSF Broader Impacts Workshop, Wednesday April 9, 12:15pm-1:45pm; 324 Renne Library (ORD) and Teams
- Convening of Indigenous Researchers, April 16 & 17, American Indian Hall; Contact Zoe Pratte for more information
- A Celebration of MSU Research & Creativity, 3-Minute Thesis Competition and Everyday Heroes, Monday April 21; 3-5:30pm in Inspiration Hall;
- Student Research Celebration, Thursday, April 24; 10-12 and 1-3; SUB Ballrooms
- American Heart Association Funding & Outreach Session, Tuesday April 29, 10-11am, SUB ballroom (ORD)
- Diversifying Your Funding Portfolio (ORD, TTO and Economic Development), Monday May 12; 10am-12pm, MSUAF Great Room
- “Effective Research Mentoring” workshops 1, 2, & 3 with CFE, Undergrad Research, and REU PI’s Dana Skorupa and Zoe Pratte, 10:00-12:00 on May 21-23, in Research Alliance, 324 Renne Library (ORD)