Research Council Minutes

September 3, 2025
3:30pm – 5:00pm

President's Conference Room

VOTING:

		NON-VOTING:
Alison Harmon	Sreekala Bajwa	Deborah Haynes
Mary Miles	Anna Tuttle	Steve Swinford/Michael Ouert
Mary Cloninger	Nicole Tuss	Terry Leist
Ron June	Jeff Heys	Robert Mokwa
Darin Boss	Blake Wiedenheft	Durward Sobek
Kristen Intemann	Eric Sproles	Ryan Knutson/
Molly Secor Turner	Maksym Makarchuk	Coltran Hophan-Nichols
Maritza Espina	Tracy Gatlin	Becca Belou
Doralyn Rossmann	James Park	Carl Yeoman
Monica Skewes		Kirk Lubick
Anja Kunze		Quinton King

Welcome and Introductions:

- Research Council welcomed new members: Kristen Intemann, Monica Skewes, Eric Sproles, Maksym Makarchuk, Tracy Gatlin, and James Park
- Think about improving the meeting structure and productivity of research council discussions.
- Piloting a new meeting location at the Research Alliance, on the third floor of the library.
- Please email any corrections for the Research Council Minutes to Alison and Mai

MSU Research Information Items:

- FY 2025 Research Data
  - VP Harmon reported on Research Expenditures FY 25.
  - NSF HERD total $288.7M (12% growth)
  - OSP only: $229.3M: effective IDC rate: 17.3%
  - IDCs Collected: $33.8M
  - Research Funding Sources: Federal 92%, Private 6%, State 2%
  - Supporting Student in Research:
    - ✓ Graduate Student: 654
    - ✓ Undergraduates: 803

- ✓ Total Student Support: $14.5M
    - USP Awards: 172: Total USP Funding: $269,559
    - Proposals & PIS: The Number of proposals is lower. The number of PIs is up by 10% from last year, but lower than in previous years. The requested amount is lower. New awards opened less than previous year.
    - Forecasting models have been developed to help predict our research revenue.
    - IDCs invested in FY 2025: MSU's research funding showed strong growth, heavily reliant on federal sources, particularly the Department of Defense.
        - ✓ Internal Awards 3.9% ($1.35M)
        - ✓ Faculty Support 14.5% ($5M)
        - ✓ Colleges/Units/Centers & Institutes 27% ($9.3M)
        - ✓ Core Facilities 8.1% ($2.8M)
        - ✓ Research Security & Compliance 3.5% ($1.2M)
        - ✓ Research & Infrastructure & Facilities 34.8% ($12M)
        - ✓ Research Administration & Operations 8.3% ($2.9)
          Total $34.7M
    - Connected with the liaison from the Alumni Foundation and established an endowment for research.
    - Graduate enrollment declined due to international students' visa issues, impacting future research productivity.
    - Continued students showed persistence rates, indicating stability within the existing student population
    - Less funding opportunities for agencies. But that doesn't mean we shouldn't try to complete.

- Federal Funding and the MSU Research Landscape
    - Federal appropriations discussions are ongoing, with uncertainty around budget outcomes
- Research Subjects Database
    - Updating a human subject recruitment database for research participation.
    - Postcards were sent to Gallatin County to fill out a brief survey to recruit people to be part of the research database.
    - Building an internal database specific to the Montana community, which is open to students, faculty, and staff. Goals to connect participants with MSU investigators.
    - Generating awareness, and over 300 participants have signed up for the database.
    - Planning a meeting with MSU Billings to explore how to utilize their resources for participants, and reach out to the extension offices to get to the Rural area
    - Develop a communication strategy to engage alumni.
    - Required an IRB approval to use the MSU human subject recruitment database.

Discussion Topic:
- Communicating the impact of MSU research

- How do we measure the impact
- Met with various groups to think of research impacts. MSU and other Institutions measured by research expenditures, economic impact, number of patents and start-ups, community engagement, and number of academic papers published
- Need Impact Measures Brainstorm; Key Questions: Who is the audience? What story are we telling? Accuracy? Difficulty in measuring?
- How can we connect new jobs to startups and other businesses?
- Replacement of students into high-paying jobs.
- Forecast workforce demands and how to fill that demand
- Effective communication of research impact is crucial for public awareness and appreciation.
- Highlighting successful alumni can foster pride in MSU's contributions to the State.

- Other discussion topics for Research Council
  - Send compelling research story to VP Harmon to share in the next meeting

Research Policies and Procedures: (Will be discussed on October 1st meeting)

- Research Misconduct Policy
- Conflict of Interest Policy
- Limited Submission Policy Updates

Announcements from RED:

- Research Development
  - ORD has a new service: Resubmission Readiness Reports.
  - USDA NIFA Foundational Applied Science Program Request for Applications posted August 1.
- Sponsored Programs
  - New research administration software from InfoEd expected to be launched in September with an 18-month implementation timeline.
- Research Integrity & Compliance—already covered in this agenda.
- Research Security
  - In the coming months, certain Federal Sponsors are anticipated to require Research Security Training certification to accompany new proposals. Research Security Training is available on Canvas. For more information on how to access, contact John Harrison [john.harrison1@montana.edu] or Quinton King [quinton.king@montana.edu].
  - Section 216 of the Senate version of the National Defense Authorization Act for FY26 includes a prohibition against contracts or affiliations with certain foreign entities, specifically foreign academic institutions identified within the "1286 List". If passed in current form, such contracts or affiliations would potentially risk current and/or future Dept. Of Defense funding to MSU.

- Economic Development:
    - White papers for federal appropriations are due to VPRED office (shared folder) by November 1st.
- Undergraduate Research:
    - New program to assist new faculty with nominal start-up funds hire work-study students.
    - The Honors Research Symposium is now open by application to ALL students.

Other Announcements:

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Research Events:

Student-run Undergraduate Research Fair, SUB Ballroom A, Aug. 26th 10:00am—2:00 pm (last day to sign-up to host a table is 8/22)

USP: Fall and Academic Year funding: Application portal closes Sept. 14

America's Seed Fund at the National Science Foundation with Dr. Ela Mirowski, SBIR Program Officer, Wednesday, September 17, 2025, 12:00pm – 1:00pm; EngineWorks, 2425 Technology Blvd, Bozeman, MT 59718. Registration Recommended

DARPA Connect Regional Pop-up Event: Wednesday Sept 24, 8:30am-5pm; SUB Ballroom. Attendees must register.

Federal Initiatives Workshop with Strategic Marketing Innovations (SMI): September 30, 3pm-5pm; American Indian Hall 166. Individual meetings with authors on Sept 30-Oct 1.

Idea Incubator: Brainstorming Creative Research Ideas: Thursday, October 2, 2025, 9:00am - 11:00am; MSU Library Room 324, Research Alliance

CORE DAY: Friday October 3, 8:45am-3:30pm; SUB Ballrooms. Please RSVP: Core Day 2025 - Office of Research & Economic Development | Montana State University

Virtual Info Session: NIH MIRA (R35) ESI: Wednesday, November 12, 2025, 1:30pm - 2:30pm. Attendees must register.

COMING EVENTS: 994 Journeys - Office of Research & Economic Development | Montana State University

- Liz Johnson, Monday September 29, 4pm; SUB 233
- Seth Walk, Monday October 20, 4pm; SUB 233
- Devon Orme, Monday December 1, 4pm; SUB 233

- Nick Lux, Monday January 26, 4pm; SUB 233
- Catherine Kirkland, Monday February 9, 4pm; SUB 233
- Jason Bolte, Monday March 30, 4pm; SUB 233