UNIVERSITY RESEARCH COUNCIL
Minutes for 17 November 2009
Career Development Conference Room/ 387 JET


Absent: Jennifer Snodgrass, Megan Johnson, Lisa Curtin, Cindy McGaha, John Pine, Joseph Cazier, Ed Brewer

1. Call to order at 4:05

2. Approval of 20 October 2009 URC minutes: It was moved (Krumrine) that the minutes of 20 October 2009 URC meeting be approved. Motion carried. None opposed. No abstentions.

3. Report from Proposal Development—Pollyanne Frantz
   • Events held include the NEA web conference, the NIH Area Program web conference, and the Second Avenues of Funding Workshop.
   • Upcoming events:
     o The National Science Foundation Major Research Instrumentation web conference on 17 December. It is still uncertain whether or not there will be a competition; there can only be three submissions per institution. New Faculty and Researcher Workshop in January
     o The Triangle Census Research Data Center Workshops.

4. Report from Sponsored Programs—Julie Taubman reporting for Susan McCracken
   • Submissions: funds requested continue to be approximately double of what was requested last year. Numbers of submissions is up 15%. The average requested per submissions is $150K.
   • Awards are up $276K. For more detailed reports, please visit http://www.orsp.appstate.edu/awards/index.html
   • ORSP is working with the General Counsel to create a better process for working with government entities on contracts.
   • Deficit Accounts: Working with the General Council and Business Affairs to establish guidelines to deal with grants and contracts that are 180 days delinquent. The guidelines are now with the Provost and the Deans. Three sponsored failed to pay. ORSP is trying to refine the contract process to make sure that when dealing with a non-federal agency, the bulk of the funding is asked for up front.
   • There will be two kinds of templates.
     o A standard template: if the corporation or industry can agree to the standard template, the contract will be turned around in a week. If modifications need to be made, it can take more than a month.

5. Report from Research Protections—Julie Taubman
   • The IRB application will be revised in an attempt to elicit the information that Research Protections needs to effectively review the application.
   • To make the IRB process more transparent, Research Protections will post materials so investigators understand the criteria for approval.
Research Protections is arranging departmental visits.

6. Report from Special Funds Accounting—Amy Roberts
   o Over Thanksgiving, Banner 8 is being implemented. There will be no access from Tuesday to Monday. New features include billing, federal reporting, and further automation on many of the post-award functions.

7. Report from Federal Relations—Edelma Huntley reporting for Meredith Whitfield
   • The Congressional Delegation staffers will be on campus Friday and Saturday, 20-21 November. Federal agenda items will be a focus.
   • Federal agenda items:
     o Project from Kannapolis
     o Beer and HOPS project
     o K-12 Introduction to Nanoscience Biofuels
     o On 1 December, the US Army Special Operation Center Personnel will be on campus. They have read about the Human Performance Lab. Discussions will include Appalachian’s capacity to do research with them in the Social Sciences, specifically in what is called Human Factors. The main interest is learning and training in 3D virtual environments. Faculty in the College of Education, Computer Information Systems, and in the English Department are doing research in this area. There is also an interest in the Human Machine Interface, which is being conducted by Skip Beck in Psychology. It consists of how human beings react when forced to handle potential weapons of mass destruction. For instance, what is the psychological impact on the way people think and the way they operate? The goal is to see if funding could be available.
       ▪ One thing that could be pushed is the cultural awareness and language capabilities that could probably be done on this campus with the armed forces.
   • A group will be traveling to Redmond, WA at the invitation of Microsoft, thanks to John Krumrine. The Chancellor will also be attending.

8. Recommendations for funding from review panels and discussion
   • A new version was tested this fall.
   • Council is asked to refer to the Summary of Funding Recommendations handout to see the breakdown of funding recommendations from review panels.
   • There is $50,000 to fund.
   • The URC will give feedback to everyone.
   • Workshops may need to be done prior to Spring 2010.
   • Are there additional flaws in the application process? None are put forward.
   • Each panel puts forward recommendations for funding which are then discussed with the full Council.

9. Allocation Summary:

   Michael Behrent: $2,340
   Jeff Bortz: $5,000
   Sarah Carmichael: $5,000
   Tiffany Christian: $4,000
   Eric Frauman: $4,000
   Gonzales, Eva: $5,000
   Krenn, Michael: $3,947
Liutkus, Cindy: $4,900  
Russell, Jamie: $4,000  
Szeto, KinYan: $5,000  
Turner, Michael: $4,000  
Zwetsloot, Kevin: $5,000

Total funds allocated: $52,187

10. Meeting adjourned at 5:30