University Research Council
April 17, 2012
(Approved September 18, 2012)


EXCUSED: Alan Utter, Bill Bauldry, Susan Staub, Tracy Goodson-Espy, Scott Collier

ABSENT: Susan McCracken, Amauri Serrano

• Edelma Huntley calls the meeting to order.

MINUTES: Motion to approve minutes from the March 20, 2012 meeting (Martz). No opposition. Motion passes.

OLD BUSINESS – GRANT WRITING STATEMENT

- Lynn Gregory - Draft grant writing statement posted on AsULearn site in late March, but no comments and/or feedback has been provided by the Council.
  - It is noted that there is nothing in the statement that members are not comfortable with.
  - Motion to accept statement (Bolt). Second (Dickinson). No opposition. Motion passes – Edelma Huntley will forward to the Provost.

- Edelma Huntley - The Provost distributed a memo to Chairs and Deans seeking input about how research should be included in the Strategic Plan.
  - Strategic Planning process will begin in the fall semester.
  - Policies, procedures, and money need to be in the mix, otherwise this is just a pipedream.

NEW BUSINESS – SPRING 2012 AWARDS

- Award recommendations from the STEM review panel:
  - Mike Gangloff (Biology) – $5,000 - “Conservation Genetics of Southern Appalachian freshwater Invertebrates.”
  - Johnny Waters (Geology) – $5,000 - “Analysis of Samples from the Devonian of Mongolia.”
  - Pam Brewer (English) – $2,450 - “Engineering Communication in Global Virtual Teams.”
  - Annkatrin Rose (Biology) – $2,545 - “Functional Analysis of the FLIP4 Protein Family in Arabidopsis Thaliana.”
  - Ok-Youn Yu (Technology) – $2,500 - “Real-time Monitoring of Landfill Gas Using remote Sensing Technology.”

- Award recommendations from the Social Science review panel:
  - James Bryant (Curriculum & Instruction) – $4,320 - “Noon day sun: Education and the Eastern band of Cherokee Indians.”
• Jamie Fearrington (Psychology) - $4,917 - "Educational reform: What factors influence teacher acceptance of new practices?"
• Andrew Smith (Psychology) - $4,500 - "Do pretests enhance classroom learning: Evaluating the pretesting effect."

- Award recommendations from the Arts & Humanities review panel:
  • Bruce Stewart (History) – $3,238 - “Herman Husband’s World: Radicalism and the Failed Promise of the American Revolution.”
  • Chad Everhart (Technology) – $1,750 - “Farmitecture: A Visual Narrative of Buildings and Structures at the Blackburn/Vannoy Farms.”
  • Vicky Grube (Art) – $3,995 - “A Study of Ethical Behavior: Towards a New School Art.”
  • Mark Nystrom (Art) – $1,084 - "Wind drawings."
  • Xiaofei Tu (Philosophy & Religion) – $1,900 - “Humanistic Buddhism in the Global Context.”

- Total recommended funding equals $43,200.
- Motion to accept funding recommendations. No opposition. Motion passes.

DISCUSSION & ANNOUNCEMENTS

- The Arts & Humanities review panel noted issues that repeatedly come up during the review process:
  • How to handle funding for arts research and instillation expenses.
    - It would be helpful to involve Art and Theatre & Dance Department Chairs to inform the Council of departmental practices.
  • Several proposals requested funding for travel to go read books.
    - Books can either be shipped to ASU, or are available digitally.
    - Guidelines should direct these types of proposals to consult with a library representative.
- Review panels suggest it would be helpful to provide them with past rejection comments if proposal is a resubmission.
- Council will continue to work on the review rubric.
- Ged Moody – Renewable Energy Initiative (REI) interested in collaborating with URC.
  • REI is a committee of seven students, with faculty and staff advisors that are responsible for allocating money towards the implementation of renewable energy on campus.
  • Purpose of the collaboration would be to provide faculty support for renewable energy research.
    - If the Council decides to pursue, Edelma Huntley suggests administering the competition completely separate from existing URC cycles to avoid muddying the waters.
    - Details, logistics, and timeline would need to be worked out.

MOTION TO ADJOURN
URC Letter

In meeting its mission to stimulate, encourage, and support research across all segments of the Appalachian community and in recognizing the limited institutional research support available during these challenging economic times, the University Research Council encourages Colleges and Departments to recognize grant writing and acquisition as a part of the tenure and/or promotion process and for merit inclusion. Grant recognition may relate to research, teaching, and/or service and apply in specific ways to a variety of disciplines. It is it is an important component of an inclusive definition of research and scholarly activity.

The pursuit of grants can be a long and detailed process that is viewed quite differently across disciplines. In encouraging the formal recognition of this effort, the URC would like to recognize some facts about grant writing:

- some federal grant agencies have rejection rates much higher than tier one journals
- smaller grants are often a stepping-stone to larger grants
- grants and those publications from grants are an important aspect of public and administrative recognition of Appalachian fulfilling its research mission
- unfunded grants are not unusual and this does not necessarily reflect a poor submission
- grant supported funding can enhance the quality of research, service, and teaching

Current promotion and tenure standards across the University recognize grant pursuit in various ways as exemplified in the following:

- funded, publicly-available grants of $10,000 or more are recognized as publications
- well-reviewed and scored, but unfunded grants count as scholarly activity
- grant writing is counted as service
- grant writing with students is counted as teaching

The purpose of this recommendation is to stimulate conversations at the Department, College, and University level that focus on the codification of grant writing in promotion and tenure guidelines. If we can assist by providing more information or guidance, please do not hesitate to contact your College representative.

Drafted by Karla Rusch, Denise Martz, and Lynn Gregory
Events (date/number of participants):

- “First Fridays: Exercise and Cardiovascular Health” (Mar. 2 / 19)
- “GRC FY12 Budget Overview: Comprehensive Look at Federal Spending for Research and Sponsored Programs” webinar (Mar. 8 / 5)
- New Faculty and Researcher workshop (Mar. 9 / 2)
- “Grant Proposal Writing” lecture for ENG 5535 Technical Writing graduate class (Mar. 20 / 9)
- “Grant Proposal Writing” workshops for GRAM students (Frantz) (Mar. 21 & 23 / 8)
- “The Institute of Education Sciences: Funding Opportunities and Research Designs” (Mar. 22 / 3)
- “Making Progress on Your Research Agenda” co-sponsored by Hubbard Programs for Faculty Excellence (Mar. 27 / 4)
- “International and Foreign Language Education FY12 Grant Opportunities” webinar (Mar. 28 / 3).

Other Activities:

- Faculty consultations/meetings:
  - Frantz: 1
  - Love: 4
- Student consultations/meetings:
  - Love: 2
- Limited submission internal competitions conducted:
  - RGK Foundation
  - National Endowment for the Humanities Challenge Grants
- “The Social Network: Using I.T. and Social Media to Reach out to Faculty” (Frantz, Love and D. Arneke, NC A&T State University), North Carolina Chapter of the Society of Research Administrators annual conference, Durham, NC.
• 67th Annual Meeting of the ORAU Council of Sponsoring Institutions, Oak Ridge, TN (Frantz)
• Coastal Carolina University research administrator visit to Grants Resources & Services to learn about GRS operations (Mar. 8-9).

Upcoming Events:

For a complete listing of events, see http://www.orsp.appstate.edu/events/index.html.
• “Research Café: Compassion Comes to the Table” featuring Dr. Christopher Osmond, Department of Leadership and Educational Studies (April 3)
• National Endowment for the Humanities Regional Grant Application workshop (April 5)
• “First Fridays: Medical Speech Pathology” featuring Dr. Heather Clark, Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders (April 6)
• North Carolina Biotechnology Center Grant Proposal Writing workshop (May 17)
• Faculty Learning Community: Grant Proposal Writing (summer TBA).
Office of Sponsored Programs Report
April 1, 2012

Items of Note

- Year-to-date submission and award information through the end of March is available on the Web at http://www.orsp.appstate.edu/awards. A summary follows:
  - 200 proposals requesting $55,652,023 compared to FY2011’s year-end total of 334 requests for $58,412,052.
    - Proposal submissions are down in number by 17%. This is the 3rd month we have held at a decrease of 17-18%.
    - Dollars requested are up 14%, falling back with the slower submission rates and smaller requests. When one factors the variance of one large request for $17 million (not funded), there is little difference between FY11 and FY12.
    - There are 12 proposals currently moving in the AGrants system and 27 that have not yet been submitted.
  - 168 awards totaling $7,127,157 reflect a 7% decrease in the number awards, continuing to slowly rise in number.
    - Dollars received also continue to rise very slowly, but are still down 48.4% from this time in FY 2011 compared to a decrease of 53.3% reported in February.
- Sponsored Programs Workshop Offerings
  - February attendance waned, leading to a review and revision in publicity efforts.
  - April programs include
    - Building a Budget for Grant Applications 4/3
    - Understanding Contracts 4/23
    - Conversations at Noon 4/12
  - See www.orsp.appstate.edu/events for the full list of remaining FY2012 offerings.
  - Planning for a full FY2013 program schedule is underway.
- ARRA (American Reinvestment and Recovery Act) reports are being completed for the 2nd quarter deadline of 4/10.
- FFATA (Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act) reporting is reviewed and completed monthly.
- ORSP Web presence evaluation and redesign continues to move forward with an August target date for completion.
- Howson Co-presented 3 sessions at the North Carolina Chapter Meeting in Durham March 6-7.
- The Director of Sponsored Programs attended the spring Board meeting as Chapter Representative.

- Other Activity:
  - Kudos to Erin Justice, Athletics & Advising who recently submitted a proposal to Miller-Coors. The sponsor has written that her proposal was so well done that they would like to use it as an example for others who would solicit funds from them. (Kudos also to Charlotte Smith who assisted her first with general comments and then with a simple edit)
  - Howson participated in one audit/site visit
  - Sponsored Programs and Special Funds Accounting staff held 2 half day meetings to collaboratively address ways to enhance post award management. This was the first time the two offices have met in this manner, and directors have agreed to make use of months containing a 5th Wednesday morning to continue joint training.

NEW Business
Graduate Council & University Research Council / April 2012
Report from Julie Taubman, Research Protections (RP)

Upcoming Presentations / Events
● Julie Taubman, Responsible Conduct of Research for CHE 3000, 4/6

Items of Note
● The Institutional Review Board (IRB) approved a procedure to determine whether an activity requires IRB review, and guidelines on the expertise required to perform biomedical research techniques in non-clinical settings. The guidelines cover finger sticks, standard venipuncture, peripheral venous catheter procedures, and dual-energy X-ray absorptiometry. Both documents will be posted on the website: http://www.orsp.appstate.edu/protections/irb/sop
● Number of new requests for review received this academic year (as of 4/2/2012): 248 human subject research; 12 animal care and use; 3 biosafety applications with recombinant DNA; and 15 applications for the purchase of radioactive materials.

Past Events
● RP staff visited classes to discuss the IRB review process: Dr. Keefe’s class (Robin, 1/30), Dr. Yang’s class (Robin, 2/2), Dr. Lillian’s class (Julie, 2/23) and Dr. Waryold’s class (Julie, 3/22).
● Robin Tyndall held a “Navigating the IRB” workshop on 2/14 with the Hubbard Center (9 faculty and graduate students attended)
● Julie Taubman visited the Biology faculty departmental meeting on 1/24 to discuss the IBC and IACUC processes.