University Research Council  
March 19, 2013  
(Approved April 23, 2013)

PRESENT: Les Bolt, Karen Caldwell, Scott Collier, David Dickinson, Anne Fanatico, Pollyanne Frantz, Kim Hall, Holly Hirst, Charna Howson, Cynthia Liutkus-Pierce, Denise Martz, Ray Miller, John Pine, Jeff Ramsdell, Kellie Reed-Ashcraft, Amy Roberts, Karla Rusch, Susan Staub, Julie Taubman, Betsy Williams

EXCUSED: Bill Bauldry, Tracy Goodson-Espy, Edelma Huntley, Susan McCracken

ABSENT: Joseph Cazier, Randy Gonzalez, Christine Leist, Ged Moody, Lisa Suggs

CALL TO ORDER: Pollyanne Frantz called the meeting to order.

MINUTES: Motion to approve minutes from the January 15, 2013 meeting. Seconded. Motion passed.

NEW BUSINESS:

Pending expenditure vote – Pollyanne Frantz

- Council discussed whether or not URC funds can be used to supplement a Graduate Assistant's (GAs) existing stipend.
- In the fall, the Council voted to partially fund a proposal and let the PI determine how to best use the award (GA or consultant).
  - Original proposal and award letter presented to facilitate discussion.
  - PI requested the funding be used for the GA.
    - GA is currently the PI's full GA, working 20 hours a week and receiving $4,000 a semester.
    - PI indicated that no additional duties or work hours would be required.
  - URC guidelines do not explicitly address the issue.
  - Does not violate any University policies or state regulations.
- Motion to honor award letter and allow funding to be used to supplement GAs salary. Seconded. Motion passed.
- Guidelines will be revised to address this topic for future cycles.
  - Funds cannot be used to supplement a GAs salary unless additional duties and work hours are required.

Spring competition update – Jessica Yandow

- Proposals and corresponding materials available on AsULearn.
- Technical reviews provided to flag applications that appeared to not follow guidelines.
- $75,000 available to award.

Mini search conference: Research at Appalachian

- Council brainstormed and captured factors and opportunities that affect research funding.
• Internal factors that may impact research
  o Increased administrative work and assessment
  o Time available
  o Department culture – both positive and negative
  o Natural interest/inquisitiveness
  o Administrative support
  o Promotion and tenure relationship
  o Internal funding
  o Collaborative opportunities
  o Physical space
  o Statistical expertise
  o Short term grad students
  o Service expectations
  o Policies needed – transparent
  o Anti-humanities bias
  o Lack of raises
  o Morale issue

• External factors that may impact research
  o Sequestration
  o Shifting priorities (UNC Strategic Plan)
  o Economic downturn
  o Environmental issues
  o New technologies/teaching methods
  o Encroachment of out-of-state universities (not part of university consortium)
  o Reduction of GA funding (NCTS and fed loans)
  o Reduction of support from UNC system and General Assembly
  o Increasing accountability/reporting
  o Narrowed focus of University mission
  o Anti-humanities bias

• Opportunities despite or thanks to factors impacting research
  o Possible less competition (because of sequestration)
  o Collaborative/interdisciplinary
  o On-campus; off-campus
  o To develop variable workloads
  o Support (provost, research office)
  o OSR & URC
  o Ability to respond to societal/global needs (with existing resources/strengths – i.e. in areas of sustainability, energy...)
  o Targeted hires
  o Residential faculty; statistician
  o Opportunities to partner with other institutions, and non-profits
  o OCSA
  o Resource: library special collections
  o Opportunity to document effectiveness
  o DHMRI and NCRC
  o New VP for research, new dean
  o Relatively new provost
  o New visions about the federal budget in chaos of sequestration
  o Strategic plan
  o Difficulties in funding; increased collaborations with co-ops
Possible to conduct research without funding at ASU at this time
- Differential teaching loads
- Newest strategic plan for UNC system identifies priorities for funding
- OSR (with funding)
- Multi-disciplinary research and internal funding
- Location, location, location!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Grants Resources & Services – Pollyanne Frantz
  - Thanked panelist who participated in the February URC workshop.
  - Evaluations indicated it was helpful
  - ORAU representative will be on campus Friday, 22 March and will give a public presentation at 1:00 in 421 BLIC.
  - Vice provost for Research candidate is scheduled to meet with the URC on Thursday, 28 March at 10:15 in 224 I.G. Greer.
    - Only one candidate coming to campus at this time.
- Sponsored Programs – Charna Howson
  - Currently working with General Counsel to review and approve COI policy.
    - Volunteers needed to pilot test a new web-based system that will replace the old forms and paper-based reporting.
    - Hope system will roll-out in July
- Research Protections – Julie Taubman
  - Several questions raised about research during recent emergency exercise,
- Graduate Studies – Holly Hirst
  - Received 20 GRAM applications and may contact URC members (who are not on a URC review committee) to help with the reviews.
  - Latest General Assembly budget eliminates funding for out of state tuition aid.
    - If budget passes, ASU will not have funds to offer NC tuition scholarships.
    - Holly will notify program directors to not make any offers at this time.
- Other announcements
  - Humanities Council symposium scheduled for Friday 5 April.
    - If interested, members should register for networking lunch.
  - Student Research poster Competition deadline is 5:00 tomorrow, 20 March.
    - Graduate School will also sponsor a 3 Minute Research Competition

The meeting was adjourned at 5:02.
Graduate Council & University Research Council / March 2013
Report from Dr. Pollyanne Frantz, GRS Director

**Initiatives:**
- The Grantwriters Education Series, a hands-on interactive series of seven workshops designed to take participants through the proposal development process, met February 22 for a combined session on budgeting basics and research protections
- Frantz and Amy Love continue to work on the implementation of REACH NC
- Frantz continues to serve as a mentor in the National Organization of Research Development Professionals Mentoring Program
- Frantz and Love are working with the Humanities Council Coordinator and graduate assistant to facilitate access to humanities-related funding opportunities
- Frantz and Love attended the SPARC Funding Opportunities Group meeting at the UNC General Administration; Frantz delivered a presentation on “Increasing Faculty Use of Funded Research Databases.”

**Other Activities:**
- Faculty consultations:
  - Frantz: 6
  - Love: 2
- Internal funding opportunity and/or limited submission competition faculty review coordination:
  - Board of Trustees International Research Grants
  - NEA Grants for Arts Projects FY2014
  - Microgrants Program
- Events:
  - Graduate Student Workshops on Locating and Evaluating Funding Opportunities (2 sessions; Feb. 13 and 14 / 11 participants)
  - University Research Council Grants Program Workshop (Feb. 11 / 16 participants)
  - “First Fridays: The World of Music in a 21st Century Curriculum” featuring Dr. Suzi Mills, Hayes School of Music (Mar. 1 / 7).

For a complete listing of events, see [http://orsp.appstate.edu/events/orsp](http://orsp.appstate.edu/events/orsp)
Upcoming events:

- Appalachian Women Scientists initiative second faculty meeting (Mar. 4)
- Grantwriters Education Series (Mar. 22, April 19)
- Graduate Student Workshops on Grant Proposal Writing (Mar. 20 & 29)
- First Fridays: “Multi-Generational Perspectives: How They Interact and Impact Service to Students and Their Families in an Age of Highly-involved Parents” featuring Dr. Andrea Wawrzusin, University Registrar (April 5).
- Research Café: “Brazil” featuring Mr. Keith McCutchen, Hayes School of Music (April 12)
- Hayes School of Music Faculty and Graduate Student Workshop on Finding Travel Funding (April 12)
Items of Note

- Year-to-date submission and award information through the end of February is available on the Web at http://www.orsp.appstate.edu/awards. A summary follows:
  - 169 proposals have been submitted requesting $26,496,270.
    - Proposal submissions are running parallel to FY 2012 in number.
    - Dollars requested, however, remain below the cumulative values for FY2012 at this time (- $26,356,429) by approximately 50%.
  - 107 awards have been received totaling $6,501,440
    - The number awards is down 30 % (-45)
    - Dollar values are down 4% (- $282,081) compared to the same period for FY2012.
  - Appalachian State University served as one of 6 institutions in the nation in Phase I of the pilot and the only NC institution to participate
  - Directors Charna Howson, Sponsored Programs, and Amy Roberts, Special Funds Accounting presented the NSF update at the recent NC Chapter of the Society of Research Administrators, International’s 2013 Annual Meeting in Greensboro, NC. Howson presented the general update and RPPR update, while Ms. Roberts presented the an update on the transition to the new accounting system (ACM$).
- Spring workshops and training programs hosted by Sponsored Programs may be found at http://orsp.appstate.edu/events/orsp or by clicking on the event (calendar) icon at the bottom of any ORSP Web page.
  - April 11 Building a Budget for Grant Applications
  - April 18 Navigating Grants.gov’s SF424 forms for Art and Humanities Projects
- Sponsored Programs’ collaboration with General Counsel to assure compliance with the new Conflict of Interest Policy continues. Pilot testing will begin shortly on a new Web-based system that will replace the old forms and paper-based system of reporting.
- The director of Sponsored Programs is serving on a team charged with the completion of a trial economic impact report for General Administration due in April.
- Sponsored Programs and Advancement staff have entered conversations about the routing, submitting and managing foundation grants
- Chair Meetings. Charna Howson, Sponsored Programs, and Amy Roberts, Special Funds Accounting, met with 6 department chairs in February to discuss hot topics and to hear concerns and questions raised by the chairs. Initiated by Hubbard Center, these sessions are again planned for the fall and spring of FY2014.
- Sponsored Programs and Special Funds Accounting held their second joint in-service meeting, which was led by Dr. Lynn Gregory. Topics included time management and communications.
- Sponsored Programs, Special Funds Accounting and Human Resources will initiate the planning process for a HR-endorsed training program in research administration.
Announcements

- The Institutional Review Board (IRB) Biomedical subcommittee approved a guideline for maximal exercise testing of low risks participants. [http://researchprotections.appstate.edu/human-subjects/irb-policies-guidelines](http://researchprotections.appstate.edu/human-subjects/irb-policies-guidelines)
- Research Protections moved from the Graduate School suite on the 2nd floor of JET to the 3rd floor of JET into the old Office of Student Research space.

Coming Events

- March 19, IRB meeting
- March 28, Robin Tyndall, IRB 101 for Dr. Diane Waryold’s class
- March 29, Julie Taubman, Introduction to the Responsible Conduct of Research for Dr. Jennifer Cecile’s class