University Research Council
Minutes
September 17, 2013
(Approved October 15, 2013)

Present: Bill Anderson (for Cynthia Liutkus-Pierce), William Baker, Rebecca Battista, Les Bolt, Joseph Cazier, Pollyanne Frantz, Kim Hall, Charna Howson, Edelma Huntley, Christine Leist, Susan McCracken, Karla Rusch, Susan Staub, Julie Taubman, Alan Utter, Betsy Williams, Chris Yang

Excused: Jeff Ramsdell, Amy Roberts, Tracy Goodson-Espy

Absent: Ged Moody, John Pine, Lisa Suggs, Randy Gonzalez

Guest: Amy Love

Called to order by Dr. Edelma Huntley. There are several vacancies to be filled by Faculty Senate.

It was moved (Bolt), seconded (Staub), and unanimously approved that the minutes of the April 23, 2013 meeting be accepted as submitted.

Update from the American Association of State Colleges & Universities (AASCU) Grants Resource Center with Federal and State Updates – Amy Love (Grants Resources and Services). Amy Love attended the August 2013 External Funding Competitiveness Conference hosted by the Grants Resource Center. She gave URC members a brief overview of the conference highlights. All conference presentations and handouts are available through Grants Resources & Services’ AsULearn site (http://oldasulearn.appstate.edu/mod/resource/view.php?id=1531954). See also the attached PowerPoint presentation.

AGrants Upgrade / Change in Reporting – Charna Howson. Recent upgrade added a field on the personnel tab for allocation of credit to allow the PI to indicate percent of total to distribute credit across participating departments with chair and dean approval for departments involved. Funds, however, are housed in one department for management. Reports of awards and submissions, retroactive to July 2013, may show fractions. Institutes are still reported through the institute. 2014 F&A distribution will be per grant routing agreement.

Decrease in proposal submission dollar amounts. Dr. Huntley noted that July 2013 submissions are 13 vs. 14 for July 2012, or relatively flat. The submission dollar amounts for that period are $1.3M in July 2013 vs. $3.4M for July the year before. The numbers are similar in comparing August 2012 submissions with August 2013 submissions: same number of submissions but for markedly fewer dollar amounts
in 2013. The issue is that Research and Sponsored Programs has the same workload for the smaller submission amount. The URC needs to have a discussion about why PIs are limiting their activity to smaller RFPs even though they are putting in the same effort and time into writing the proposals. What assistance can be provided to faculty PIs during the proposal writing stage? What are the barriers to applying for larger grants?

Announcements
1. From Dr. Huntley:
   - As URC members, representatives are encouraged to have a presence on their college councils.
   - Research lightning rounds – 1 minute to share research in the college. Email interest to Dr. Huntley.
   - Dr. Huntley serves on a faculty workload committee which will review differentiated workloads.
   - Cyberinsecurity, GRAM Workshop by Cathy Bates: Friday, September 20 at noon in 387 JET. Please share with graduate students.
2. From Dr. Utter:
   - Dr. Utter serves on the Chancellor’s Search Committee. Forums will be held on campus to get input on qualities of a new Chancellor. URC is encouraged to be vocal about research.
   - 2013 NC Undergraduate Research and Creativity Symposium to be held at UNC Charlotte on Saturday, Nov. 16, 2013. Call for abstracts runs through 5 p.m. on October 23.
3. From Dr. Frantz:
   - October 4 deadline for REI/URC grant submissions: 2 awards up to a maximum of $5000; 4 awards up to a maximum of $2500. URC members are requested to disseminate this funding opportunity information to their constituents.
   - October 4 deadline for Elsevier /Appalachian Women Scientists seed grants
   - REACH NC implementation: a tool has been developed to help capture publication information for faculty members whose disciplines are not well represented in the SCOPUS database. Faculty members will be contacted by Grants Resources & Services once the tool is available.
   - Events and workshops: http://orsp.appstate.edu/events/orsp
4. From Dr. McCracken: Legislators frequently scrutinize how F&A funds are used across institutions. Dr. McCracken indicated it would be helpful to know how departments on campus use F&A returns.

Motion to adjourn: Bill Anderson.
Initiatives:

- The Grantwriters Education Series, a hands-on interactive series of six workshops designed to take participants through the proposal development process, met April 19 for a final session focused on post-award project management for grants and contracts. The nine participants successfully completing the series attended a recognition and brainstorming luncheon with special guests Drs. Chris Brown (UNC GA), Lori Gonzalez and Edelma Huntley.
- Frantz and Amy Love continue to work on the implementation of the REACH NC expertise database. Recent accomplishments included updating and verifying personnel master lists generated by HR Datamart (Love), providing CVs for a Harvester tool testing process (Frantz), and serving as an expertise resource for other UNC campuses’ REACH NC liaisons (Love).
- Grant guidelines were created for two programs funded through the Elsevier Foundation’s New Scholars Programs: Appalachian Women Scientists (AWS) Seed Grants and Travel and Dependent Care Grants.
- Love worked with Dr. Kim Hall, Humanities Council Coordinator, to create a humanities-oriented basic grant-seeking guide for the Humanities Council website.

Other Activities:

- Faculty consultations/meetings:
  - Frantz: 18
  - Love: 6
  - Frantz/Love: 1
- Limited submission funding opportunity faculty review coordination:
  - NEH Summer Stipends (August 2013)
- Internal funding opportunity administrative coordination:
  - AWS Seed Grants (4 awards made)
  - AWS Travel and Dependent Care Grants (3 awards made)
  - REI/URC Grants Program (revised guidelines and application materials and awards information)

For a complete listing of events, see [http://orsp.appstate.edu/events/orsp](http://orsp.appstate.edu/events/orsp)
• GRS Director (Pollyanne Frantz) activities:
  o An article authored by Frantz, “Grant Proposal Development à la FLC (Faculty Learning Community) Mode,” was published in Research Management Review (2013: Vol. 19, No. 2)
  o Frantz met with various faculty candidates to discuss Office of Research and Sponsored Programs’ services and resources (multiple dates)
  o Frantz delivered a panel presentation titled “Out of Many, One: Four Perspectives on Managing the Limited Submission Process” with colleagues from UNC Charlotte, North Carolina State University, and Georgia Regents University at the 2013 National Organization of Research Development Professionals (NORDP) 5th annual conference (May)
  o Frantz participated in the UNC system SPARC spring meeting (June)
  o Frantz, as chair of the NORDP Effective Practices and Professional Development Special Programs Working Group, worked with colleagues from Brown University, North Carolina State University, and the University of Delaware to conduct a focus group session in Boston, MA, with NORDP Northeastern Chapter members. Focus group participants explored content/knowledge domains and associated competencies for research development professionals (July)
  o Frantz is collaborating with UNC colleagues to develop content for the North Carolina Training Consortium, a resource to augment local training programs/materials (July - )
  o Frantz participated in the Humanities Council retreat (August)
  o Frantz participated in the Graduate Council retreat (August).

• GRS Assistant Director (Amy Love) activities:
  o Love served as the Staff Senate representative for Research and Graduate Studies during academic year 2012-13 and has been elected to serve as the Staff Senate Secretary for the 2013-14 academic year
  o Love participated in the University Planning and Priorities Council Work-Life Balance Planning Retreat (March)
  o Love participated in a Defense Threat Reduction Agency teleconference (April)
  o Love met with members of the Marshall University Research Corporation and the principal investigator for MU-ADVANCE, a program for women scientists at Marshall University funded by the NSF ADVANCE program, to discuss research development and project management best practices (June)
  o Love participated in the UNC system SPARC spring meeting (June)
  o Love attended the AASCU/Grants Resource Center External Funding Competitiveness conference (August).

• Events:
  o First Fridays: “Multigenerational Perspectives” featuring Dr. Andrea Wawrzusin, University Registrar (April 5 / 22 participants)

For a complete listing of events, see http://orsp.appstate.edu/events/orsp
Research Café: “Meu Bi’lavad Comunidade (My Beloved Community): Musical and Cultural Exchange through Scholarship and Performance in Brazil” featuring Mr. Keith McCutchen, Hayes School of Music (April 12 / 9 participants)

Hayes School of Music Faculty and Graduate Student Workshop on Finding Travel Funding (April 12 / 5 participants)

Grantwriters Education Series Session #7: Project Management: Post Award Grant and Contract Administration (April 19 / 9 participants)

Grant Proposal Writing workshop for faculty as part of “The Successful Scholar: Increasing Writing Productivity Retreat” (May 22 / 11 participants)

New Faculty Orientation (August)

New International Faculty Orientation (August).

**Upcoming events:**

- First Fridays: “Sustainable Art” featuring Ms. Jeana Klein, Associate Professor of Art (Oct. 4)
- New Faculty and Researcher Workshop (Oct. 15)
- Developing a New Research Agenda (Oct. 23)
- First Fridays: “Sustainable Water Use” featuring Dr. Kristan Cockerill, Assistant Professor of Interdisciplinary Studies (Nov. 1).

For a complete listing of events, see [http://orsp.appstate.edu/events/orsp](http://orsp.appstate.edu/events/orsp)
Grant and Contract Activity (http://orsp.appstate.edu/about/reports)

- Current Year to date information is available on the Web
  - 30 Submissions through August requesting $1,987,916
  - 29 Awards through August totaling $1,288,944
- FY2012 Year-end data
  - 275 Submissions requesting $43,442,308
  - 176 Awards for $11,077,426

Announcements

- Sponsored Programs/Special Funds Accounting departmental assignment list was updated over the summer months to address shifts in proposal activity
- Phase III of the UNC FIT (Finance Improvement and Transformation) Standards extended fiscal compliance review to pre-award activities.
  - Sponsored Programs developed and implemented a sub recipient data form that is used to determine the level of risk ASU assumes when issuing sub contracts and to determine what, if any, additional monitoring, terms or conditions are needed to protect the university from financial loss.
  - New Award meeting materials were revised to merge the existing Responsibility Matrix with FIT Standards requirements.
- Updated budget templates have been posted to the Web that includes benefit increases responsive to health care cost increase that will take effect in January. Another Update is not anticipated until July 2014.

Initiatives

- AGrants updates in August prepared system added new view options for “My Proposals” and “Proposals in My Department,” new Conflict of Interest reporting/monitoring requirements and added detail to post award financial data. The upgrade also replaced the old “Community Benefits” page with a new “Community Engagement” page used for current collection of economic impact and community engagement metrics by General Administration.
- Sponsored Programs developed a Web page specifically for PIs who are preparing applications to the National Institutes of Health that features links to parent applications, deadlines and preparation of Grants.gov proposal packages. See http://orsp.appstate.edu/submit-proposal/how-do-you-submit-your-proposal/preparing-proposals-.nih.
- APropos – Sponsored Programs, Special Funds Accounting, and Human Resources introduced this competitive, small cohort training program for University staff that provides support with proposal submissions and award management. As a pilot year, 10
individuals applied and were selected for this training program, which meets for 2 hours one day 10 months of the year (January & July excluded). Participants completing the program will receive a certificate signed by Human Resources and the Chief Research Officer. The program is listed as part of Human Resources’ Professional Development Programs

- Sponsored Programs continues to work with General Counsel and the Conflicts of Interest and Commitment Council to automate the annual review process in a manner that facilitates sponsored project activity while remaining responsive to institutional, state and federal policies.

New Business:

- Monthly Reporting

  Sponsored Programs will be revising the reporting of monthly grant and contract activity to distribute information across collaborating departments and Colleges. These reports have traditionally reported proposal submissions and awards only with the home department of the lead PI. The new format enables reporting of multidisciplinary work across participating units as predetermined by those doing the work.

  With the recent system upgrade in August the field “Allocation of Credit” was added to the Personnel tab in AGrants. PIs are now able determine how they want to share credit for their work by assigning a percentage, or no percentage, to ASU personnel listed on the Personnel tab; for instance, Co-PIs may opt to share credit equally, while technicians or assistants are listed as 0% credit. As department chairs and deans approve projects during internal routing, they will also be approving this allocation. Discussion about how this can also be used to aid in distribution of indirect cost procedures are forthcoming.

  This change will introduce fractions into departmental/college listings of submissions and awards as the total award is broken down across allocations. Projects managed by an Institute will continued to be reported with the PI(s) home departments per the “Allocation of Credit” and added to the institute summary in total at the end of the report.

  To accomplish this shift for the FY2014 Sponsored Programs staff will be solicit allocation data and approvals for projects already submitted and awards resulting from prior submissions. Projects for which responses are not received will continue to be reported at 100% to the home department of the lead PI.
Research Protections (RP) Report
Graduate Council and University Research Council
September 2013

Announcements

- Drs. Martha McKay and Laureen Vilas, physicians with the Student Health Service, joined the Institutional Review Board (IRB)
- Appalachian is requesting renewal of our Federal Animal Welfare Assurance and is working to augment our Occupational Health and Safety program for personnel that work with animals in order to be compliant with recent regulatory revisions.
- Julie Taubman participated in the Ad-Hoc Search Committee for the Chief Information Security Officer. Research Protections staff look forward to working with this new position in order to improve information security infrastructure in order to facilitate research with sensitive and confidential information.

Coming Events

- September 4 and 5, Robin Tyndall gives IRB presentations to Drs. Sue Keefe and Chris Yang’s classes
- September 17, IRB meeting
- September 17, Webinar on Research Ethics for Undergraduate Research Programs, hosted by the Office of Student Research
- September 25 and 26, Julie Taubman gives Responsible Conduct of Research presentations to Drs. Sarah Carmichael and Levine’s classes
- October 1, Institutional Biosafety Council meeting
AASCU Grants Resource Center Conference Recap & NC Research Funding
FEDERAL RESEARCH FUNDING FOR FY14
Trends in R&D by Agency
in billions of constant FY 2013 dollars

FY 2013 and FY 2014 figures are latest estimates.
1976-1994 figures are NSF data on obligations in the Federal Funds survey.
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EXECUTIVE PRIORITIES FOR FEDERAL R&D

- Clean energy
- Neuroscience
- STEM education
- Cybersecurity
- Veterans-related research
- Advanced manufacturing
THEMES ACROSS MULTIPLE AGENCIES

- College (and STEM major) retention
- Undergraduate research
- Aging
- Special populations, including rural
- Digitization, big data
- Local economic impact
Continued interest in STEM education & pipeline, but “NSF is not a social agency”

TUES, CAUSE, & WIDER

Cybersecurity

Coburn amendment

Geoscience & climate
House-Senate disagreement over EPA, USGS, NOAA, the Forest Service

Both chambers support research on water and weather

House opposition to climate research

Both chambers support USDA research funding increase
College access and completion programs (TRIO FY15, Upward Bound FY16, GEARUP)

International Foreign Language & Education (IFLE) programs

First in the World Initiative
OTHER AGENCIES

- NEH – House would cut in half
- NEA – House would cut in half
- NIST – Both chambers support increase
- NASA – Both chambers support planetary science program; other programs contentious
- NOAA – Both chambers support weather research; conflict about climate and geoscience research
OTHER GRC CONFERENCE INFO.

- HUD Research Partnerships
- Institute of Museum and Library Services
- NIH Behavioral & Social Science Research
- New NIH AREA program announcement
PROPOSED STEM EDUCATION REORGANIZATION
Committee on STEM Education (CoSTEM)

Participating agencies: USDA, Commerce, DOD, DoEd, DOE, DHHS, DHS, DOI, DOT, EPA, NASA, NSF, Smithsonian, Executive Office of the President

Purpose: Review STEM education funding, eliminate duplication, set common goals and strategy
Co-STEM goals:

- Improve STEM K-12 instruction & teacher prep.
- “Authentic STEM experiences” for K-12
- Improve STEM recruitment, retention, & instruction at undergraduate level
- Better serve underrepresented groups
- Design graduate education for tomorrow’s STEM workforce
Neither chamber supports reorg.

However, focus on STEM education and evidence-based practices is not going away.

Some RFPs have been delayed by uncertainty about reorg.

Several agencies mentioned retention in first two years as major problem.
STATE FUNDING FOR FY14
27% cut in state funding

Ending: Education Enhancement Grants, Undergraduate Biotech. Research Fellowships, Summer Workshops for Educators

Closing: Multidisciplinary Research Grants


Will honor awards already made
Complete elimination of state funding

Center is shutting down as of October 31, 2013

May be able to reinstate current projects with funding from other state agencies
Consolidated:
- Clean Water Management Trust Fund (CWMTF)
- Natural Heritage Trust Fund
- Farmland Preservation Trust Fund
- Parks and Recreation Trust Fund
All state funding for Rural Center has been redirected to NC Department of Commerce.

Dept. of Commerce establishing new Rural Economic Development Division and Rural Infrastructure Authority.

Department will begin taking applications for new rural grants on October 1.
STATE PROGRAMS FUNDED BY FEDERAL PASS-THROUGH

- NC Space Grant
- Sea Grant North Carolina
- LSTA Grants
- NC QUEST
- NC Arts Council
- NC Humanities Council
No huge changes on the federal front, though there are conflicts about clean energy and climate research

Undergraduate research experiences are supported by many agencies

STEM education: Recruitment and retention of STEM majors, teacher education, and evidence-based teaching practices are priorities

Federal vs. state funding landscape
MORE INFORMATION

- Link to conference materials from ORSP blog: [http://orsp.appstate.edu/news](http://orsp.appstate.edu/news)

- Contact me: Amy Love, [loveas@appstate.edu](mailto:loveas@appstate.edu) / x8123