UNIVERSITY RESEARCH COUNCIL  
MINUTES  
October 21, 2014  
(Approved November 18, 2014)

Present: William Baker, Becki Battista, Karen Caldwell, Pollyanne Frantz, Charna Howson, Alecia Jackson, Christine Leist, Gary McCullough, John Pine, Jeff Ramsdell, Amy Roberts, Karla Rusch, Susan Staub, Robin Tyndall, Alan Utter, Betsy Williams, Chris Yang

Excused: Susan Doll, Cynthia Liutkus-Pierce, Susan McCracken, Ged Moody, Johnny Waters

Absent: Gwen Robbins-Schug

Guests: Kate Hoffman, Administrative Support Specialist, Office of Research

Meeting was called to order by Alan Utter. The September 2014 minutes were approved.

The deadline for URC applications was today at 12 pm. The award decisions will be made at the next meeting. A preliminary count at close estimates 26 applications (7 Arts & Humanities, 10 Social Sciences, Education and Business, 9 STEM). Applications will be submitted to panels after the technical review is completed. Panels have a target date of November 11th to submit their completed reviews so that all URC members have time to read them before the meeting.

Alan Utter states that the search committee for the Director of Research Protections is close to scheduling interviews. The University Statistician position has been filled by Shawn Bergman. A formal press release will be sent next semester. The job’s title may change, but the primary duties will be statistical analysis assistance for externally funded projects. Alan urges members to relay their thoughts about the duties of this position to him. A graduate assistant will assist Dr. Bergman. Dr. Bergman will begin duties in the Summer 2015. His office will be located at the Office of Student Research in the Plemmons Student Union.

The Office of Research is out of space in John Thomas Hall. Alan will be speaking with the Interim Provost and has spoken to Art Rex regarding securing space. Alan’s meetings with the Interim Provost will be monthly.

Alan Utter and Amy Roberts have spoken to a consultant regarding preparation of ASU’s next indirect cost rate proposal. The current rate is 32% but the effective rate is 12%. If the effective rate increases by 1%, an additional $100,000 will be generated.

The demand for big data will continue to increase and the infrastructure must be in place to support it. Alan is pleased with the recent discussions on campus and the Chief Information Officer’s awareness about this need. Additional servers are being added now.

The proposal submission deadline for the Faculty Reassigned Time for Proposal Development (FRT) pilot program is this Friday at 11:59 pm. Funding for this program is separate from the URC allocation.

Chancellor Everts and Randy Edwards are co-chairing the established group tasked to study the possibility of an innovation campus at the Broyhill Inn and Conference Center property. This effort
requires faculty support and student engagement. Jeff Ramsdell states the site is intended to enhance research and be interdisciplinary.

RTI International representatives will speak from 11:00 am until 12:00 pm on Friday, November 14, 2014 in 387 John Thomas. Alan urges members to attend.

Becki Battista and Susan Doll collected feedback from their constituents regarding the draft review rubric that was presented at the September meeting.

The applicant self-selects the panel in which the submission is to be reviewed. The online application form will be modified to include wording that the proper panel may not always be the faculty’s home department designation. However, if the panel disagrees with the placement, the chair of the panel may contact Alan and request that the application be reassigned. Panel chairs should contact Alan as soon as possible in this situation so that if the application is reassigned, the new panel has adequate time to review it in the same review period.

As currently constructed, the lower the score an application receives means it’s more highly ranked. The current weighting system matches that used by the National Institutes of Health. Members proposed that this rating scale be switched so that a high score means a highly rated proposal.

Some proposals that contain only supplies may appear weak under the 2B criterion on the draft rubric. A possible solution is to extract the timeline and the budget from 2A and place them into 2B.

The score number of the results can be used internally but not shared externally.

It is the responsibility of the URC members to determine the course of action and vote on changes to be made to the review rubric.

Announcements:

Grants Resources & Services is hosting two NIH Peer Review webinars on Nov. 4 and 5.

Sponsored Programs monthly report update: Proposals requesting over $30 million in support have been submitted and the awarded amount to date is around $7 million.

Research Protections update: Dr. Lisa Curtin Grizzard has assumed the role of IRB Chair. The office has received a record number of IRB submissions thus far this semester. Research Protections staff will try to expedite reviews if awarded funding is on hold.

Special Funds Accounting update: The F&A cost recovery funds have been distributed to departments’ 228XXX accounts.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:14 pm.