



**University of Research Council  
Meeting Minutes for  
Wednesday, January 15, 2014**

The University of Research Council met from 2:00-3:00 PM on Wednesday, January 15<sup>th</sup> in Waul House. Committee members present were: David Blustein, Education, Tom Chiles, Vice Provost for Research, Dick Clifford, Theology and Ministry, Pat Doherty, Institute for Scientific Research, Summer Hawkins, Social Work, Gail Kineke, Earth and Environmental Sciences, Alicia Munnell, Center for Retirement Research, Bill Nunez, Provost Office, Phil Strahan, School of Management, Steve Wilson, Physics, Scott Slotnick for Ellen Winner, Psychology, and Barbara Wolfe, Nursing.

The URC discussed the following topics:

I. Updates on VPR financial requests

1. Indirect Cost Return: The VPR's Office has successfully altered the IDC Policy to reflect a more transparent and equitable distribution of funds. This change will be implemented starting Fiscal Year 2015, and will reflect a 15% return. Additionally, the VPR's Office created two new funding initiatives—RADS & Ignite—to ensure our faculty remain competitive and are in line with other leading research universities. By infusing the necessary support we will be able to enhance and grow research and scholarship at BC. The VPR's Office is still working on the distribution of IDC to the Deans, Chairs, PI's, etc.
2. Ignite Program: The Ignite Program is designed to provide our faculty with a stream of funds in order to obtain preliminary data for proposal writing. Because a proposal with preliminary data is so important to receiving funding, this would create an effective strategy for leveraging more federal dollars. Funding will be distributed three times per year with the VPR supporting 3-4 projects per session at \$30,000 each. The three submission deadlines will be: May 1, August 1, and December 1 of each year. This should generate roughly 10 projects annually.
3. RADS "Research Across Departments and Schools: This program is specifically aimed at supporting interdisciplinary research projects between faculty in different disciplines, departments, and schools across Boston College. The primary purpose of this program is to assist faculty in leveraging ideas into possible future external grant proposals, with the objective to promote interdisciplinary collaborations that might not occur otherwise. The VPR will support five projects per year at \$50,000 each. Subsequent to receiving funding, the PI agrees to provide updates on outcomes for up to two years after receiving funds; for example, grants received or papers published that used the project data. These data would be used to adjust the program annually and to justify the overall program budget in future years.

II. Research Day

1. Boston College does not do a good job collaborating research across the different departments and schools. Holding a Research Day would be a good way to bring together research all over the University. We are aiming to hold the first Research Day in Fall 2014 and will have a theme, like public health for example, which will bring faculty together under one common topic. Also, we would like to give an award to a BC alumni who might also be a keynote speaker that day. The URC discussed giving out two awards—one for natural science and one for social science—so that it's not geared toward just natural

scientists. Another idea might be giving an “early career award” or a “senior distinguishing award.”

III. Staff Changes

1. The Center for Centers now reports to the Vice Provost for Research. One of the responsibilities of the Center for Centers is starting and maintaining all the recharge centers across campus.

IV. RIGs & REGs

1. Neither the RADS nor the Ignite Program are replacing the existing RIGs and REGs. In regards to the REGs, \$2,000 seems too little for the hard sciences. The URC discussed increasing the award to \$3,000 and awarding less REG proposals.

**Next Meeting**  
**Wednesday, April 2, 2014**