



**Boston College  
University Research Council**

**Meeting Minutes  
January 13, 2010  
10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.  
Waul House**

**Members Present:**

Kevin Bedell, Vice Provost for Research  
Arnold Shore, Associate Vice Provost for Research  
Joanne Scibilia, Office for Sponsored Programs  
Steve Erickson, Office for Research Integrity and Compliance and Office for Research Protections  
David Chapman, CSOM Finance  
Yvette Kuiper, Geology & Geophysics  
Tao Li, Mathematics  
Willie Padilla, Physics  
Ce Shen, GSSW  
Kenneth Williams, Biology  
Barbara Wolfe, Connell School of Nursing  
Bill Armstrong, Undergrad, Geology & Geophysics

**Absent:**

Christopher Wilson, English  
Devin Pendas, History  
Catherine Ives, Office for Technology Transfer and Licensing

1. The minutes of the April 15, 2009 and October 14, 2009 URC meetings were approved.
2. First topic for discussion was F&A cost recovery. Kevin Bedell informed the members that the amount of F&A cost recovery (aka – overhead return) made available to the departments has been based on a fixed amount since 2007. Funds are made available to the Deans each fiscal year and the Deans decide how the funds should be distributed for research initiatives. In the past, overhead return funds were distributed to the Department Chairs based on a three-year average of F&A costs incurred. The change to a fixed amount will have the biggest impact on A&S. The F&A cost recovery funds will be made a permanent part of the University budget each fiscal year. It was suggested that guidelines outlining flexibility in rolling over overhead return funds from one fiscal year to the next would be helpful for planning.
3. Steve Erickson reported that the Intellectual Property Policy has been reviewed by the University General Council. Comments were made and changes are now needed. The

changes preserve the principles of the original policy, but update the language. A revised IP policy will be sent to the URC for review soon.

4. Steve Erickson gave a presentation on Export Controls. The presentation was very informative. Briefly, everyone is subject to Export Controls, fundamental research is excluded from export control requirements and the sanctions for failure to comply are serious.
5. The members continued the discussion of ways to celebrate research and researchers at BC. The discussion included:
  - how to plan an event that would be exciting so that faculty would attend
  - how to make comparisons among schools so that all are included
  - how nominations/selections should be made; should the criteria be determined by the Deans
  - should awards be made university-wide or by department
  - categories could be established (i.e. new, tenured, life-time)
  - the importance of the award must be established
  - winners could make a presentation followed by a reception
  - when to have the celebration; timing is important
  - possible venues – convocation, graduation, athletic events

Kevin Bedell will consider all the comments and draft procedures for faculty research awards.

6. Members of the URC raised the issue of research support provided by OSP. There was discussion about the need for an increase in OSP staff to meet the increase in research activity. Joanne Scibilia talked about the OSP Team structure and workflow.
7. Members also discussed RCR (responsible conduct of research) training and data retention. Members expressed the need for storage of non-electronic data such as human subject materials. Steve Erickson informed the members that the data retention policy has not yet been approved because there is still a question of who will pay for the storage – the University or the department. In addition, data security must be considered.
8. Bill Armstrong, undergraduate student URC member and 2<sup>nd</sup> semester senior, commented that students should be encouraged to participate in research as early as possible. Students desire to be involved in research, but opportunities are few. He commented that students benefit from independent research projects and students should be encouraged to present their research. He suggested a poster session on Parents' Weekend.