



**Boston College
University Research Council**

**Meeting Minutes
October 14, 2009
10:00 a.m. - 12 noon
Waul House**

Members Present:

Kevin Bedell, Vice Provost for Research
Arnold Shore, Associate Vice Provost for Research
Joanne Scibilia, Office for Sponsored Programs
Catherine Ives, Office for Technology Transfer and Licensing
Steve Erickson, Office for Research Integrity and Compliance and Office for Research Protections
David Chapman, CSOM Finance
Willie Padilla, Physics
Ce Shen, GSSW
Kenneth Williams, Biology
Christopher Wilson, English

Absent:

Hiram Brownell, Psychology
Devin Pendas, History
Barbara Wolfe, Connell School of Nursing

1. Arnie Shore welcomed the URC returning and new members. Arnie spoke about the purpose of the URC and ways in which the URC represent faculty colleagues. Arnie outlined areas in which the URC could be effective such as improving research support, promoting integrated sciences, considering the role of research in student formation and providing more information to researchers on support systems (equipment purchases, IT, technology transfer, budget reports, etc.). The extended role of the URC is to obtain the perspective of the faculty and participate in policy formation.
2. There was discussion about integrative research and its importance as well as the difficulty in determining how to identify faculty collaborators. There was discussion of opportunities for faculty to get to know each other and possible opportunities to stimulate interest through the recruitment process and through department long-range goals.

Suggestions were made for interdisciplinary research, seminar series that involve many departments, encouraging forums to get faculty to think more broadly and integrative scholarships. It was suggested that the URC could sponsor some initiatives.

3. A question was asked about export controls and where information can be found. Steve Erickson referred the members to the Export Controls website. He stated that each case is unique and that we follow the Federal guidelines and regulations. Most of what universities do is exempt from export controls coverage since fundamental research, that which is in the public domain, and research linked to courses published in our course catalog are excluded under the guidelines. The biggest problem all universities have concerns “deemed exports”. There is a procedure where OSP obtains information on possible export controls via the Internal Proposal Transmittal Form and forwards the information to Steve who contacts the department.
4. Policy review and formulation was discussed. The Policy Matrix/Inventory was distributed to the URC. Steve Erickson specified that the matrix/inventory serves as one place to find all research-related policies. The Office for Research Integrity and Compliance performs periodic assessments to ensure that policies and forms are up-to-date and to ensure that the inventory is complete and there are no inconsistencies.

Steve also distributed the Policy Gantt Chart. The Chart shows the status of policy development and stages of review and approval. The URC is part of the review process. Policies are reviewed by the URC, then the Council of Deans and the Office of General Counsel.

5. Research Policy Implementation was discussed. Steve Erickson informed the group that policies and procedures on Human Research Participants follow Federal guidelines contained in the NIH Common Rule. Soon to be implemented is the Animal Care Occupational Health Program. BC has an agreement with Newton Wellesley Hospital and has developed guidance for emergencies. Student advisors should be trained and familiar with issues, problems that could occur and solutions. A copy of the Office for Research Protections Standard Operating Procedures for Researchers and a copy of the Policy for the Protection of Human Research Participants were distributed to the URC.
6. The members discussed possible ways to celebrate faculty achievement. An example of activities at another university was presented.
7. Faculty responsibilities with regard to compliance issues were discussed. A copy of the “Shared Research Responsibilities” document is attached to these minutes. Comments were made about accepting financial stewardship for sponsored projects, research integrity, responsible conduct of research (RCR), meeting reporting requirement of sponsored projects and monitoring subcontracts. The NSF has mandated that undergrads, grad students and post-docs complete a RCR education program. It was suggested that faculty should incorporate guidance on the ethical conduct of research into the curriculum.