



Boston College

University Research Council

Meeting Minutes
April 26, 2007
10:30am – 12 noon
Hovey House Library

Members Present:

Kevin Bedell, Vice Provost for Research
Arnold Shore, Associate Vice Provost for Research
Stephen Erickson, Director, Office for Research Compliance and Intellectual
Property Management
Joanne Scibilia, Interim Director, Office for Sponsored Programs
Patricia Doherty, ISR
Prof. Dean Hashimoto, Law School
Prof. Charlie Hoffman, Biology
Prof. Amy Hutton, Accounting
Prof. Kris Kempa, Physics
Jacquelyn James, Center for Work and Family
Prof. Ellen Mahoney, Nursing
Prof. Devin Pendas, History
Prof. Thanh Tran, GSSW
John Felman, A&S

The meeting began at about 10:45am.

1. Following the Meeting Agenda, Arnie Shore began with introductions and some brief comments on the purpose of the URC under the new Office of the Vice Provost for Research. Arnie said that the URC would provide advice on research policies and their implementation. In all, the URC would serve in an advisory capacity on the formulation, implementation, assessment and reformulation of research policies (see attached URC Meeting Agenda and Vice Provost Research Priorities).
2. Kevin and Arnie led a discussion on the Vice Provost's Research Priorities. Kevin spoke of his mission to increase the level of external funding. With more awards, there will be more internal funds made available to the Vice Provost that can be used to provide support to increase faculty productivity.
3. There was discussion about the Research Expense Grant Program. Kevin described changes being made to the REG program to streamline the process and create more accountability and rewards to encourage successful faculty.
4. Joanne described the OSP reorganization and how the team concept has been successful in creating more efficiency and greater customer satisfaction.

5. Kevin spoke about subvention funds and how there would be a formal request process and review process before making funds available. Kevin also spoke about bridge funding as well as shared credit for collaborative projects and overhead return.
6. Kevin acknowledged that the current research support structure is insufficient to support the University strategic plans.
7. Steve spoke about Intellectual Property. Steve said that we have 71 active inventions of which 11 have been successful and 60 are pending and need to be marketed. Steve said that we need to evaluate the potential of the inventions, reduce the number of inventions we support and support those from beginning to end. Steve said that we need to attend meetings to develop university/industry cross fertilization. We must evaluate our disclosures for commercial potential.

When asked if rejected disclosures will be released back to the investigator, Steve explained that Federal regulations give the government first right to inventions developed with its funding.

8. Kevin spoke about needs and usage of University Research Facilities. He said that with all requests, he will require full disclosure, full-cost budgets and demonstrated need. Kevin said that he has established a usage fee for the Animal Care Facility and re-charge process for TEM and SEM usage. Other shared facilities include the Clean Room, Machine and Electrical Shop.
9. Kevin talked about a “Center for Centers” that would offer centralized services under a support structure. Among other things the Center for Centers would provide support for visiting research scholars. Kevin and Arnie are in the process of reviewing existing centers and proposed and planned new centers.
10. Kevin will appoint URC members to two Subcommittees. A Subcommittee on Intellectual Property/Technology Transfer and a Subcommittee on Research Incentive Grants and Research Expense Grants.

The meeting adjourned at around 12 noon. The Agenda and other materials are attached.