



2-19-2010

Research Council Meeting : 2010 : 02 : 19

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USFSP Faculty Research Council Meeting Minutes

February 19, 2010, COQ 201

Present: Alex Brice, Deby Cassill, Jim Fellows, Deb Henry, Michiko Otsuki, Pat Scott, Todd Shank (Chair), and Charlie Vanover

Regrets: Malcolm Butler, Faculty Senate Liaison

Meeting was called to order at 9:30 am by Jim Fellows. The meeting was moved to an earlier time to accommodate Council members who wished to attend the memorial service for David Carr. Members arrived as available.

Old Business

USFSP Research Month

Pat announced that many activities have been confirmed and scheduled, e.g. budget preparation training, Honors Week, Undergraduate Symposium, Graduate Research EXPO, "Elevator Speeches" (short faculty research exchanges), receptions, luncheons, and more. The Graduate EXPO could accommodate more student participants. She shared drafts of some of the brochures and flyers that will be distributed to promote the Research Month events.

New Business

OR&I Proposal Development Enhancement Task Force

Pat distributed an invitation flyer to participate in a new task force consisting of faculty system-wide and some research administration personnel. The charge is to "identify ways to improve the process associated with generating competitive grant proposals" for awards of \$3 million or more. Meetings will be held using the USF Conferencing System, which will minimize travel requirements. Jim suggested that the invitation be extended to the entire USFSP faculty. Alex volunteered to serve as the representative from the Research Council and Pat, who has already attended the first online meeting, offered to be his back-up. Charlie suggested that we invite ORI staff to the campus to talk to the Research Council and interested faculty.

Actions: Pat will ask Dr. Noonan to extend the invitation, via email, to the USFSP faculty. She will also approach the ORI folks about an on-campus meeting.

Changes in Cost Accounting Standards forms and process

Pat shared the guidelines and forms for charging direct and indirect costs to federally sponsored projects. She announced that there will be a change in the process as of July 1, 2010. Formerly, the Division of Sponsored Research (DSR) completed the forms and then sent them to the Principal Investigator (PI) for review. It will now be the exclusive responsibility of the PI to complete the paperwork. Related to this change, Pat stressed the importance of faculty attending the training sessions to be held on March 30, 2010, during the USFSP Research Month. Thirty-five staff, who have been assigned to a budget work group, will also attending. The schedule and location for these training sessions are available from Pat.

Dialogues with Dr. Noonan

Council members identified a number of possible topics to discuss with Dr. Noonan. Topics cover research promotion and funding issues.

Action: Deb will prepare a draft of the issues discussed for the group's review. Todd will extend the invite to Dr. Noonan.

Other discussions

There was some discussion about tenure and promotion criteria with regards to research and concerns were expressed that not all faculty, depending on college, department, or program were apprised of the expectations at the time of their hiring. Council members agreed that this topic is the purview of the Faculty Senate and will pass on this concern to the Faculty Senate liaison.

Jim moved to approve the January minutes; Alex seconded; the minutes were approved unanimously.

Meeting was adjourned at 10:50 am.

Respectfully submitted:

Deb Henry
Council Secretary