

Idaho State University
Research Council
Minutes

Thursday, December 3, 2009 3:00 p.m.
Faculty Senate Conference Room
Rendezvous Building Rm. 301

In Attendance: Homan, Kelchner (Chair), Leung (for Perez), Lynch, Mundt, Naidu, Mary Anne Reynolds (for Molinari), Sanger, Santhanakrishnan, Winston
Non-voting: Crowell, Wallace (Administrative Assistant)
Excused: Bigelow
Guest: Nancy Caudillo (Grant Coordinator, College of Technology)

1. Preliminaries and Announcements

Kelchner announced that there was a quorum present. Jim Fletcher cancelled today because of a family emergency. Kelchner has been talking with Roger Egan, Controller, and Karen Sparks, Associate Controller, both in Finance & Administration, but neither of them were available today. Crowell said it would be best to talk with Vice President Fletcher directly about the grant management process and let him know what the concerns and issues are.

On December 17, Naidu will be in China; Mundt can attend. The Council will have one shot left to clear up these grant finance issues. Most Council members said they could be here on December 17th, so there will be a Research Council meeting that day.

Kelchner would like to finish up the report on the last topic, Ideas to Reward Researchers, by the end of the semester. He'll post it the draft report to Google Docs for Council members to review and comment upon.

Minutes are being worked on and should be finished by the end of the semester.

2. Report from Office of Research

Crowell said she is waiting to hear about national earmarks.

ISU submitted several HERC (Higher Education Recruitment Consortium) proposals, but only one proposed in the entire state will be accepted.

Export control: research involving sensitive materials; regulations controlling exports, e.g. nuclear, etc.; ongoing campaign: more regulations probably coming; areas warrant more scrutiny: severe penalties if don't do them right; involves research with outside researchers, other countries, etc.

ISU will be offering training to departments: students, post-docs, and faculty.

Faculty Research Committee has met once and will meet again tomorrow. Good discussions re: proposals and criteria. Each applicant will receive feedback and suggestions on their proposals, whether funded or not.

Kelchner asked if there were any chance of increasing indirects? Crowell said the negotiations were last done just before she got to ISU. She'll be involved next time, but it's out of ISU's control. To be eligible, ISU has to have a minimum level of research activity. We're not quite there yet. We haven't tracked and maintained database on research space: would need

to do that in order to qualify. Don't have the funds to pay the staff to keep track. Banner system will help track research space.

Vice President Fletcher should be kept informed of the concerns/issues that increasing the indirects would help.

Winston: Humanities/Social Science Research Committee (HSSRC): February 10th is the announced date for call for proposals; there was a delay in organizing the meeting for the committee.

3. New Business

a. Topic 3: ISU Policies/Procedures That Complicate Grant Oversight by PIs

This item on the agenda was postponed until next time.

b. Publicizing Faculty Research

Homan talked with Karen Kearns in the Library about how Research Council could help her with her project of trying to account for faculty publications so that she can acquire them for the Idaho Authors and Presses Collection in the Oboler Library Special Collections. He also talked with Steve Adkison about setting up a display to feature faculty research projects.

Provost's office very supportive of this idea: it could be joint partnership among the administration, the library, and the faculty, via the Research Council.

Kelchner asked what the Research Council could do to help? Homan said that the Research Council could get the word out.

There could be a permanent display in the Oboler Library in a high-traffic, visible area; could contain offprints of articles, books, dissertations, etc. Libraries can create separate bibliographic records for articles or offprints to be put into library catalogs.

Homan asked Crowell: Whether the Office of Research tracked faculty research? No, but Provost's office might be better source; faculty evaluations should list research/scholarship and creative activities. The Office of Research might have info on grants and contracts, patents that could be used.

Crowell: Kay Flowers, the University Librarian, had discussed with the Deans an electronic database for theses and dissertations of students and faculty, i.e., an institutional repository. Crowell would be very supportive of this project, too. This would help Karen Kearns get the info she's been trying to get.

How to keep it current? Would have to be the library's responsibility. The display could represent the publications in a given academic year.

If the initiative came from the Research Council, it would show the faculty that the Council is doing something concrete to help make research visible.

Reynolds suggested an electronic database as the display or part of the display: Let the viewer be able to click on an article of interest and bring it up.

Homan asked what the Research Council wanted him to do. The members suggested a specific proposal, including budget estimates, specifics of display, external funds potential, etc.

Could have annual reception by the Office of Research and/or the Office of Academic Affairs in the library.

Don't limit the display to Distinguished Researchers; it should represent all faculty. One suggestion would be to have the featured faculty members do a presentation of their work?

Workload documents may have the info of publications. Faculty self-evaluations could be done electronically. Chairs could gather the info. Problem would be gathering the info into a central location.

The College of Business and the College of Engineering both have databases.

There are really two discrete projects being discussed here:

- 1.) having a database of all faculty publications in a central location; and
- 2.) a display of faculty research.

Research Council members all supported this idea; “support the planning of a plan.”
Three-prong partnership: Research Council, Oboler Library, Academic Affairs. Need more discussion of logistics: who should sponsor the proposal, what form of letter/proposal, endorsement.

Each Research Council member should reach out to their constituents and ask for bibliographies of their publications.

Discussion on how much involvement/sponsorship the Research Council wants to have, versus the Provost’s sponsorship.

Copyright issues should be investigated.

Members commended Homan for taking the initiative on this worthwhile project.

4. Adjournment: 4:05 p.m.

The next meeting was scheduled for **Thursday, December 17, 2009** at 3:00 p.m. Kelchner will let everyone know if plans change.

Respectfully submitted,

Philip Homan
Secretary
Research Council

Catherine Wallace
Administrative Assistant 1
Faculty Senate Office

Approved by Research Council: December 17, 2009

Accepted by Faculty Senate: January 11, 2010