

Research Council Minutes

August 21, 2024

3:30 – 5:00pm

President's Conference Room

VOTING:

Alison Harmon
Mary Miles
Mary Cloninger/Robert Walker
Ron June
Brent Peyton/Robin Gerlach
Molly Secor Turner
Brian Gillespie
Doralyn Rossmann
Michael Reidy
Stephanie McCalla/Anja Kunze
Darin Boss

Sreekala Bajwa
Anna Tuttle
Nicole Tuss
Blake Wiedenheft
Carl Yeoman
Jean Korth
Michaela Johnson
Amanda Haab
Andrew Vernooy
Jeff Heys

NON-VOTING:

Craig Ogilvie
Steve Swinford/Michael Ouert
Terry Leist
Robert Mokwa/Durward Sobek
Sandra Sward
Ryan Knutson
Liz Shanahan
Becca Belou

-
- Approval of May 2024 Minutes—Dr. Sreekala Bajwa moved to approve, Dr. Ron June seconded, and the minutes were approved unanimously.
 - Review of ongoing Research Council goals (Alison)
 - VP Harmon shared Research Progress and Goals in the past FY.
 - ✓ Established “Leave Pool” for grant-funded employees
 - ✓ Added events link to the website and the newsletter
 - ✓ Launched the economic development council
 - ✓ Working on Core Facilities Transparent Fees
 - ✓ Increasing Opportunities for Undergraduate Research
 - ✓ Continue to make graduate stipends competitive
 - ✓ Improving post-award fiscal management
 - ✓ Establishing a central recruiting system for research subjects
 - ✓ Developing guidance resources for engaging and outreach with indigenous communities.
 - ✓ Establishing a Core for Community Engagement
 - ✓ Improving Research Infrastructure
 - ✓ Creating the Researcher Leadership Development Community
 - ✓ Creating a support network for Postdoc students/Staff
 - ✓ Developing guidance for affiliating research faculty with departments
 - Research Expenditures increased by 12 percent since last year. The number of PIs and Co-PIs has increased, indicating sustained growth.

- Core Facility Highlight: Mass Spectrometry (Brian Bothner & Don Smith)
 - The Facility houses eight instruments that cover a wide range of analytics and applications.
 - Trained students to use instruments. All Instruments come from grant proposals.
 - NSF major research instrument to be resubmitted in October 2024
 - Different range of user groups and services. Metabolomics is in high demand.
 - Work with the Mont Empower Scholars program- underrepresented undergraduate students.
 - The Core Facility seeks partnerships with local companies and offers services with different rates to internal, external, and commercial users.

- Research Administration Updates (Sandy Sward)
 - Inviting the Research Council and Center & Institute Directors to the live Research Administration Software Demonstrations for feedback: Five Vendors.
 - The Uniform Guidance is being modified on October 1, 2024. The negotiation with DHHS for F&A rates is ongoing and will impact thresholds. An FAQ regarding the rate change will be sent out.

- Research Development Updates (Liz Shanahan; Nicole Motzer)
 - Internal Grant funding opportunities are live, with deadlines for Research Expansion Funds and Scholarships and Creativity on Sept. 27.
 - The Research Collaborative Grant Program has changed to a fall call once a year.
 - The Core Facilities grant will need to be finalized before being live soon.
 - Nicole Motzer shared the ORD's award and event highlights for FY24 and FY25.
 - Supported 117 projects last fiscal year. 68% were proposal development.
 - Worked with all colleges, but the CoE is the largest client, followed by CLS.
 - Launched Grant Forward, a new grant search service.
 - Tracy Gatlin is building a community of grant coordinators around campus.
 - Taking over the NSF career grant support from the Center for Faculty Excellence.

- Research Compliance (Kirk Lubick)
 - NSPM-33 (National Security Presidential Memorandum) requires the research organization to standardize policies and disclosure by implementing research security programs, including Cybersecurity, Foreign travel security (NDI Travel Registry), Export Control Training, and Research Security Training.
 - Strengthen protections of US-supported research against foreign influence and misappropriation.
 - Regardless of the type of research, everyone must do training prior to getting funded by that grant.
 - Hiring a new research security office position to be a liaison of the NSPM 33 compliance, taking over the export control duties and assisting with the control of classification.
 - Working with Procurement on the Recruitment Database Software. It's at the final stage now.

- Undergraduate Research (Anna Tuttle; Amanda Haab)

- The USP funded \$235,000 to support the Undergraduate Research students last year.
- Launching a new website to gather undergraduate research programs, information, mentor resources and a job page. <https://www.montana.edu/usp/>
- The USP Newsletter will be sent out for the upcoming events and proposal deadlines.
- Sept. 17, the second Undergraduate Research Fair
- Graduate Research (Craig Ogilvie)
 - The Graduate School has the Mentoring Program, “Getting Your Mentoring Relationships Off to a Good Start”, Workshop, Wednesday, Oct. 16, Ballroom B&C, 9-11 am
 - A new mentoring program is being implemented, modeled after the University of Michigan: Key stages of the mentorship relationship. Co-developing an expectation agreement between advisor and student.
 - Each Research Graduate Student has a graduate committee. Committee members will be provided with guidelines and training
- Discussion: What’s next? 2024-25 Goals (Alison)
 - VP Harmon asked the RC what is important and what is the next steps and priorities that we need to take. Working on the list of Goals for this coming year.
- Next RC Meeting: October 23, 2024, President’s Conference Room

RESEARCH EVENTS:

- Interdisciplinary Collaboration Workshop; co-presented by C-STES and ORD, Sept. 11, 12 noon-2pm, 324 Renee Library
- Student Research Fair, Sept. 17, 11am-2pm, SUB Ballroom A; <https://www.montana.edu/calendar/events/50704>
- Federal Initiatives Workshop PART 1, Sept. 30, 3pm, SUB 235
- Graduate School Workshop: “Getting Your Mentoring Relationship Off to a Good Start” Oct. 16, 9-11am; SUB Ballrooms B&C
- OSP Roundtable, Oct. 23, 10am, Procrastinator
- PI Mandatory Training, Nov. 6, 9:30am, SUB Ballroom C
- Federal Initiatives Workshop PART 2, Nov. 13, 10am, NAH 153

994-Journeys Presentations for 2024-25:

- Eric Sproles – Tuesday, Sept. 3, 4pm in SUB 233
- Joe Shaw- Tuesday, Nov. 5, 4pm in SUB 235
- Alex Adams- Tuesday, Jan. 7, 4pm in SUB 233
- Sreekala Bajwa- Tuesday, Feb. 4, 4pm in SUB 235
- Sara Mast- Tuesday, March 4, 4pm in SUB 233
- Melissa Ragain- Tuesday, April 8, 4pm in SUB 233