

**Research Council Minutes
November 15, 2006**

The Research Council met on Wednesday, Nov 15, 2006 at 2:00 pm in room 540 in the H.F. Robinson Building

Members present: P. Bates, C. Cooper, J. Eastman, M. Hargis, S. Henson, S. Higgins, M. Karvonen, G. Knotts, R. Lirely, G. Moller, S. O'Connell, P. Sanger, K. Schmidt, P. Jaques

Members absent: S. Acheson, K Cooper-Duffy, M. Kartlet, B. Kwochka, D. McGinty, M. Holiday

Others present: None

Announcements Graduate Research Symposium is coming up. Last year's event very successful. We encourage you to participate with your students.

IRB Update Chris Cooper no longer reviewing all IRBs. The work load was distributed to those on the IRB Committee with direct knowledge of subject matter. This should speed up turn the around. New forms and procedures are being developed (many of which should be transparent to users) to improve process. Training modules will be required before applying for a grant, but they will be online, short and painless. Hopefully they will be available by next semester. Students may be required as well. FAQs are being developed for website and input is solicited. Share any suggestions with Chris to improve IRB.

UNC General Administration Transforming Campus Grant \$50,000 grant received, six applications for course release time have been received. The approved grants will be available for the next two years and monies are available.

Planned Activities Research Administration will develop publications to highlight campus research activities.

Opening Remarks by Scott Higgins New council members and new staff in Graduate School and Research were introduced
Goal is to keep meeting to one hour
Members are encouraged to provide agenda suggestions

Approval of the Minutes Motion and second to approve the minutes of the April 19, 2006 meeting. Motion passed.

New Business S. Higgins asked members to identify the scope and mission Research Council.
Discussion ensued regarding the mission and scope of the Research Council.

Evaluating Scholarly Activity Discussion of evaluation of scholarly activity included the following
Art versus science comparisons
Trade journal versus academic peer review publications
Develop guidelines for each department
New Faculty Evaluation documents
Services engagement to scholarly activity
Set standards
Faculty Senate is looking at some of these issues in the Faculty Handbook
Should Research Council be involved in the process?
Decisions are being made this month, so input from the Research Council must be provided soon.

What is "Good Research"? Discussion ensued about what constitutes good research

Draft Faculty Handbook will be emailed to research council for immediate evaluation by members and Senate will be asked to address Research Council at next meeting.
External review is not part of WCU evaluation process
Should tenured packages be subject to external review?
Consensus by faculty is a good concept, but difficult to implement
Reciprocity with other institutions needs to be investigated

WCU's Future	<p>Concern was raised that WCU is moving from a teaching to a research school General consensus was that WCU's goal was to find a balance between the mission statements of UNC-Chapel Hill and Mars Hill.</p>
Startup Packages	<p>Discussion then moved to Startup Packages, Summer Grants, funded and un-funded research What are other schools doing regarding Startups? What are Startup Packages? \$15k for new hires to do research Currently, startup packages are at 50% of funding level of a few years ago Summer Research Grants Startup Packages could lead to sponsored research Money being sought for un-sponsored research Fiscal year starting in July makes it difficult to apply for, receive and spend in one summer. Can we skip a year to establish a fund for immediate disbursement? Funds are out there, but it is sometimes difficult to get it. Get foot in door by - being part of another schools project or being on a review committee</p>
Funding Frustrations	<p>After funded, many were frustrated with unclear accounting requirements How money is received must be carefully tracked, reported, complying with new policies, etc. Financial headaches regarding finance administration discourages research. Any issues should be sent to Michelle Hargis as we are trying to establish a customer friendly environment for researchers in the grant accounting/administration field. In December there will be a forum to discuss these issues by all parties concerned.</p>
Action	<p>Copy of Faculty Senate Handbook will be distributed to members for review/comment (Scott) Startup Packages info will be gathered for next meeting (Gibbs) Summer Research Grants need to be paid in a timely manner Grants criteria information needs to be reviewed and revised to provide research investigators for non-sponsored research activity (Scott, Shelly) A meeting with Casey Hurley and Kathy Starr will be scheduled in December (December 7). The purpose of the meeting will be for the Council to provide feedback to the Faculty Senate and Provost</p>

The meeting was adjourned at 3:00 pm.

Submitted by – John Hawes