

Research Council Minutes
March 14, 2007
(DRAFT)

The Research Council met on Wednesday, March 14, 2007 at 2:00 pm in the University Center Multipurpose Room A.

Members present: P. Bates, C. Cooper, J. Eastman, M. Hargis, S. Henson, S. Higgins, W. Kwochka, M. Holiday, K. Schmidt, P. Jacques, S. Acheson, G. Knotts, M. Kartlet, S. O'Connell, P. Sanger

Members absent: D. McGinty, G. Moller, K. Cooper-Duffy, M. Karlet, M. Karvonen, R. Lirely

Others present:

Announcements

1. Graduate Research Symposium - will be held March 22nd, 93 presenters participating and 15 papers have been entered in competition, expanded schedule well received, reception will be held from 5 to 7 pm where paper competition winners will be announced.
 2. Research Award Reception - Will be held on April 10
 3. Internal Awards - There are 5 internal research award each year, this year awarded to sponsored and non-sponsored researchers
- Hunter and University Scholar award selection was taken from Research Council and given to committee of past winners. RC members should contact S. Higgins about pros and cons of this process.
- Post Award Update Finance and Research Administration working closely together to formulate course of action, R. Rogers plans more changes to streamline process, final solution will come from executive committee.

Old Business

1. Meeting Agenda Send Scott agenda items prior to scheduled meeting.
2. Start-Up Packages Start up funds for sponsored research was typically \$40K, current funding is impacting recruitment of quality faculty. It was proposed that WCU follow 70% of peer institutions. Issues include small amounts of packages and that 50% must be spent by January 1st and balance spent within 2 years. This limits flexibility when negotiating with potential faculty. WCU message is changing from "research after teaching" to "research and teaching"
Hard science is getting funded before social sciences.
Bottom line: Start-Up issues are impacting WCU competitive capability.
S. Higgins agreed to take concerns to provost. Requested information on what are current start-ups at peer institutions (by department) and what are best practices that WCU could adopt. Members should submit to S. Higgins who they consider WCU peers (in and out of NC) and he will redistribute to committee for future discussion.
3. Summer Research Grant Revision Summer Research Grants will be combined into Faculty Research Grants, \$30k available.
Discussion:
 - a. Does the Research Council want to be involved with selection of grant recipients?
 - b. What criteria should be used in selection process?

Approval of the Minutes The minutes are available for review on the Research website.

New Business

1. IRB Procedures C. Cooper reminded Council that IRBs are reviewed by specialty and that a self checklist for investigators is available on the web. On line IRB training for investigators takes approximately 20 minutes to complete and will generate a certificate good for 5 years. Group training sessions will be permitted. Making training mandatory on WCU will be up to executive council. How summer IRBs will be approved has not been determined yet.
2. Faculty Research Grants Peer review vital to process and Research Council will be part of selection process with past winners. Criteria for selection include likelihood of publication, history of the presenter, level of student involvement, and the stage of the work. These criteria should be available to applicants.
3. Academic Integrity Policy S. Higgins solicited discussion to determine if WCU needed an Office of Research Integrity. There are some references on web, but an outside expert should be contacted for assistance.

New Business (continued)

4. Workload Point value system to evaluate workload on campus will not only consider number of classes taught but also research being conducted, and community activities

Action The Council will continue to discuss the scholarship activity, start-ups, and research integrity in future meetings.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:55 pm.

Submitted by – John Hawes