

**University of Massachusetts Amherst
Research Council of the Faculty Senate
David Ostendorf, Chair
2004-2005
Minutes
November 19, 2004**

Present: E. Henneman, R. Keen, D. Ostendorf, L. Sievert, S. Sturgeon, P. Utgoff, A. Mangels, P. KostECKi, B. McCandless, P. Mendoza, C. Sprague, M. Malone, N. Khan, H. Woodcock

Minutes of the previous meeting in October were not available and will be approved at the December meeting.

Provost: Michael Malone reported that the three memos prepared by the Research Council last academic year for the Chancellor have been sent to the Deans for their information and input. They have also been entered in the Senate record as documents for 2003-2004. Malone also noted that an issue of open access to published materials has been requested by NIH. The comment period for this new policy has passed. The policy would make journal articles accessible to all (possibly through PubMed?), and could have many implications for libraries and for scientific societies that rely on their journals for revenue. Jay Schafer will keep us apprised of how this policy proceeds.

Vice Provost for Research: Paul KostECKi noted that last week notices went out about the round of FRGs whose deadline is in early December. A new policy is in place that requires matching funds from another source in order for a grant to be awarded. This source could be the dean, department chair, or elsewhere. The cap is \$30,000 per grant, with \$15K coming from VPR funds and \$15K coming from another source. There will be two cycles this year rather than the usual three. The total amount of money available for FRG and Healey grants is about \$350,000, including the matching funds. [Note: Healey grants do not have a matching fund requirement.] The RC will be monitoring the process to see if some segments of the campus are being denied funding opportunities because of the matching fund policy.

KostECKi described a new proposed program called Leadership in Action that is being considered by the Provost. Faculty could apply for funds to hold conferences, working groups, and more informal meetings to encourage interface among researchers from different campuses. There would be approximately \$100K available, with matching funds required as well. These applications would be peer reviewed. Awards up to \$25K (\$50K with the match) would be made. KostECKi hopes this program would promote links to other universities and to the private sector to enhance research on campus.

The CVIP director search is moving ahead. We have hired a search firm to help with the process. We have a good list of candidates already.

Administration and Finance: Andy Mangels said that effort reports went out to all PIs in October, to be sent back to Will Shea. The government looks at how well people comply with this type of request. Price Waterhouse has completed an A132 audit, and the research enterprise on campus had no problems.

Graduate Dean – Nigar Khan reported that travel grants are now available for graduate students to participate in conferences. She noted that ethics in research is a concern of the Graduate Dean, in particular plagiarism. They canvassed graduate program directors to see if they thought it was a problem, and about half thought it was and half did not. Khan just returned from a recruiting trip to India. She found many outstanding students and said they were most interested in biotechnology and medical fields.

OGCA: Carol Sprague announced that there is a new calculator for figuring out the cost of graduate students on a grant on the OGCA website. Sprague handed out sheets detailing submissions and awards for October, 2004. Compared to FY04, FY05 has shown a large drop, about 20%, in both submissions and awards. This is an ominous sign if the drop continues, and the RC will monitor succeeding months carefully. It was noted that last year there were no FRGs, and this may possibly have dampened proposals from new faculty. Also, the drop in tenure-track faculty may have contributed to this downturn in submissions and proposals.

Representative from the Graduate Student Senate: Pilar Mendoza said she was pleased to hear that travel grants for students are back. Students are concentrating on closing the GEO contract now.

Compliance Coordinator: Hilary Woodcock handed out detailed minutes of the last meeting of the Compliance Committee. She noted major new regulations about shipping hazardous materials. EH&S has hired a radiation safety officer. NIH has approved the proposal that the UMass IACUK can oversee animal research at Baystate Collaborative Biomedical Research Program. There was a discussion of the need for online training and other training for ethics on campus.

Policy Committee: Paul Utgoff said the committee would be meeting in December and would have a report then.

The meeting adjourned at 10:30 a.m.