

**University of Massachusetts Amherst
Research Council of the Faculty Senate
David Ostendorf, Chair
2004-2005
Minutes
December 17, 2004**

Present: D. Ostendorf, A. Mangels, N. Khan, P. KostECKI, M. Malone,
B. McCandless, M. Taunton, P. Mendoza, C. Sprague, P. Utgoff,
W. Patterson, S. Scarpati, R. Keen, L. Sievert, S. Sturgeon

Chairperson Ostendorf appointed a recorder.

The minutes of the October 22 and November 19, 2004, meetings were moved, seconded and unanimously approved.

Administrative officer reports were given:

Provost - Mike Malone

Deans' searches are underway. Committee membership and search information is located on the Provost Office web-site. Nominations are welcome and should be sent to the chairs of the committees. The Provost's Office is considering a RFP issued by NSF. One proposal per campus is sought. Funding is focused on issues of concern in Research Affairs, including ethics in science and engineering, use of human subjects in research, compliance, and training of graduate students. Our campus has sponsored initiatives in these areas: the Graduate School sponsored four forums on ethics, and there is required training in lab safety. The funding is for a couple of years. A letter of intent is due January 10. The Provost is interested. Nursing and Public Health have indicated an interest. D. Ostendorf asked who would be the PI? He added that the Research Council agrees on the need to respond to the RFP. Elements of what we are now doing can be included but the PI is crucial. He indicated a willingness to be the PI if needed. B. McCandless clarified that the intent letter is due January 10 and the deadline is March. A notice about the RFP has been distributed to the campus.

Vice Provost for Research - Paul KostECKI - No Announcements

Administration and Finance - Andy Mangels - No Announcements

Graduate Dean - Nigar Khan

Health and Curriculum fees for all GEO appointments charged back to grants are increasing (see two attached letters from W. Shea, Director of Financial and Cost Analysis) and will result in taking funds out of research money. M. Malone asked how amounts were decided. A. Mangels indicated that the amount is decided by the Office of Financial and Cost Analysis. B. McCandless indicated that this is a tuition recovery mechanism and that all universities are engaged in this type of recovery. Allow it to be called "tuition-like" because we retain fees and not tuition. The issue is how we can keep recovered costs. D. Ostendorf indicated that the Research Council supported a curriculum fee increase when linked to serial acquisitions by the library. Journal subscriptions were seen to benefit to

PIs and students. P. Kostecki requested documentation that tells how fees are calculated. A. Mangels said this could be provided. D. Ostendorf stated that this will impact the graduate student population seen in the number of RA's as well as PhD degrees. The Research Council needs data and to hear PIs responses and then will respond to issue.

Chair of the Graduate Council - Tony Butterfield

Graduate Dean search is a local search and has just started. Doctoral program in Audiology approved. Graduate Student Travel Grants pushed to GPD level for prioritization.

Director of the Office of Grants and Contracts - Carol Sprague

Current data show that the number of proposals is up. Awards were down. B. McCandless stated that these figures are irregular from year to year. Data from July to November show \$108 million. D. Ostendorf asked if we are prepared to respond to RPF from Homeland Security?

Compliance Coordinator - No Report

Representative of the Graduate Student Senate-Pilar Mendoza - No Announcements

Policy Committee - Paul Utgoff

The committee met and discussed a number of issues. The attached minutes itemize these issues. The faculty misconduct policy was amended and will be brought to the Research Council. FRG eligibility is intended for faculty without outside funding. Faculty with large start-ups are not eligible. P. Kostecki indicated that FRG funds are skewed toward new faculty. B. McCandless indicated that submissions were up. (See attached list of faculty submissions) P. Kostecki asked about the review process and if the proposals could be prioritized and this information used in second round of reviews in March. B. McCandless stated that carry over doesn't work. All proposals are given constructive feedback. Peer reviewers read all proposals. Each proposal has a primary reviewer and an outside technical reviewer. Technical reviews are distributed to peer reviewers. The matching funding that is now required results in less representation from some colleges (one applicant in Anthropology was using a National Geographic grant as matching money). P. Kostecki indicated that the desire was for Deans to prioritize monies and the Provost's office is working with the Deans on this.

New Business

P. Kostecki brought to the Council's attention the "Research Leadership in Action Program" draft proposal attached to the agenda. The proposal has been distributed to Deans. The program will provide funds for faculty to conduct meetings, symposia, etc., in order to develop and support further research and scholarly productivity. A "1 on 1" match in funds is required. D. Ostendorf stated that deliverables need to be quantified.

The meeting adjourned at 10:45.