

**Minutes - Research Council Meeting  
September 16, 2011  
Room 145 Integrated Science Building  
9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.**

**In attendance:** L. Button, B. Coughlin, L. Clarke, R. Deconto, D. Evans, A. Ghoniem, A. Jensen, S. Laurasi, M. Maroney (Chair), S. Mills-Wisneski, J. Normanly, S. Rich, C. Rotello, M. Tymoczko, M. Weinberg, M. Aelion, Y. Levy, M. Malone, J. Schafer, J. Baran, C. Sprague, J. Donais, T. Yae, M. LeLacheur, B. McCandless, R. Liebowitz

**Welcome and Election of RC Chair**

M. Maroney introduced and welcomed new members of the Research Council including B. Coughlin, S. Luarasi, M. Tymoczko and T. Yae. He also announced that J. Baran will be joining the RC as the new Graduate Council rep, J. Donais will be attending in her new capacity as Director of Research compliance. Bruce McCandless introduced B. Liebowitz, who will be ex officio as interim Controller.

Election of chair – A motion was made to elect M. Maroney to the position of Chair of the Research Council. It was seconded and passed unanimously.

**Approval of minutes of the meeting on April 22, 2011**

A motion was made to pass the minutes from April and seconded. It passed without dissent.

**Announcements and Update on Activities**

The Chair had the following information to share with the RC.

- C. Rotello will chair the RPC, and also joins the executive committee. All council members are invited to join RPC meetings, held monthly on Fridays one week prior to RC meetings.
- S. Mills Wisneski will be the communications officer for 2011-2012. This includes monitoring the ORA website, the Faculty Senate website, and the RC email address, [researchcoun@umass.edu](mailto:researchcoun@umass.edu).
- D. Evans will continue to run the RC blog.
- M. LeLacheur will continue to take minutes.

**VCRE update**

VCRE Malone presented the RC with an update on major initiatives brought to the fore last spring.

- He agrees that communication is an area to focus on and has gone to several faculty meetings (CNS, SBS) to improve this. B. McCandless will also be available to do attend meetings.
- The AdQuad (Huron) review is now in the implementation phase with some organizational changes in place and others in progress.
  - J. Donais has shifted over to the position of Director of Compliance.
    - There are new NIH Conflict of Interest rules and changes to the eCert system.

- The position of Director of the Research Business Managers Network (DRBMnet) and three new positions in OGCA have been advertised. An AVCRE will be hired and J. Donais' old position will be filled.
  - School & College RBMs are following.
- Information Systems will also be receiving attention this year.
- Mass innovation Institute
  - This new center (lead by Jim Capistran) is focused on applied research and on providing one stop shopping for private sector partnerships.
- The Office of Research Development is putting together new workshops for Faculty. VCRE Malone asks that RC members speak to colleagues and encourage enrollment as needed.
  - This area has had two new hires, Tom Hankinson focusing on life sciences partnerships and Carter Wall focusing on program development for wind energy.
- The goal is to move the University into the top tier of peer institutions (as identified by the trustees). His office will send info on grants market share to every college (deans, etc).
- VCRE Malone asks that RC members communicate and use the new resources as they come to fruition.

### **Requests for RC Representation**

The Chair asked for RC representatives for the following Councils: Commonwealth Honors College Council, Graduate Council, and the University Service, Public Service, and Outreach Council. J. Normanly, C. Rotello, M. Maroney and Y Levy will attend the MSP meeting between faculty and PD union members.

### **Center reviews**

The Chair asked for volunteers to work on center reviews for the Center for Holocaust Studies and the Center for Entrepreneurship. D. Evans reminded the RC that there is a formal Review Process with guidelines outlined on the blog.

### **Discussion of Task Forces and Volunteering**

The Chair noted that the RPC did meet and discussed the possibilities for Task forces.

- RC members discussed all possibilities presented and decided the following:
  - “Post Doc,” “Research Admin Task Forces,” “Research Administration “Burdens and Compliance,” and “Review of Doctoral Programs” are not needed but the RC would like to be advised of developments in both areas through liaisons and reports. J. Normanly has agreed to continue to act as liaison for ongoing Post Doc negotiations. Reports submitted by R. Deconto and VCRE Malone will serve to advise the RC on Research Administration. C. Rotello suggested that a liaison for “Burdens and Compliance” be selected and complimented by J. Donais’ reporting. The last area, “Review of Doctoral Programs” can be served via a rep to the Graduate Council.

**Additional Discussion**

M. Tymoczko wondered how this University connects with the other four colleges in terms of collaborative research. D. Evans mentioned the African studies model. Wondering whether that kind of 5-college collaboration should be on our radar. The Chair will invite a rep from 5 Colleges Inc to come and talk about facilitating research cross institutions.

The meeting adjourned at 10:30 am.

