

Minutes- Research Council Meeting
November 18, 2011
Room 145 Integrated Science Building
9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

In Attendance: L. Button, B. Coughlin, R. Deconto, A. Ganz, A. Ghoniem, A. Jensen, J. Kent-Braun, S. Laurasi, M. Maroney, S. Mills-Wisneski, J. Normanly, C. Rotello, M. Weinberg, M. Aelion, M. Malone, E. May, C. Sprague, J. Donais, R. Liebowitz, B. McCandless, M. LeLacheur

Approval of the minutes of the meeting on October 14, 2011

A motion made to pass the minute from October 14, 2011 and seconded. It passed without dissent.

Discussion of Research Library Issues

- M. Billings from the Research Library Council presented an overview of Open Access issues and the Berlin Declaration. She highlighted scholarly communication trends and the need to collect and preserve research and scholarship disseminated in electronic form. There are new business models for disseminating research.
 - National developments relating to digital scholarship include new NIH mandates, NSF data management plans, and the news that NIH will now match NSF mandates. UMass Worcester passed an Open Access resolution.
- M Billings also provided an overview of the Research Library Council's engagement in scholarly communication, including library-sponsored colloquia, partnerships and the digital quadrangle series. Also noted was "Scholarworks" the digital repository based on campus.
- The Faculty Senate took actions in support of research Library Council, the most recent of which (Sept 2011) recommended that Deans actively engage in the issue of Digital Scholarship.
- The Berlin Declaration encourages researchers and cultural heritage holders to publish their work according to the principles of the open access paradigm.
 - In development are the means and ways to evaluate open access contributions and online journals in order to maintain the standards of quality assurance and good scientific practice.
- The next steps include RC vote on Berlin Declaration, then the Faculty Senate will see a motion for Faculty Senate to endorse.
- There was discussion on perception and impact factor and some concern about whether the movement toward Open Access is being driven by cost. M. Billings responded that it is driven more by issues of access than cost.

- M. Maroney stated that RC members should read Berlin Declaration and be prepared to vote on it at the Dec. 9th meeting.
- L. Button requested RC input regarding the cancellation of a portion of the subscription to the Springer Publishing online journal package. Budgetary concerns make it impossible for the Library to continue subscribing to the entire package and they must choose which titles to keep. She is looking for RC input on the selection process.
 - M. Wienberg questioned how statistics accumulated for each title. L. Button replied that data is tracked by IP address .There are 3 years' worth of statistics available to use for this assessment.
 - There was substantial discussion the ability to accurately evaluate journals and articles. The overall preference is for the library to keep the entire package but if this is not possible than journals must be assessed by use and distributed throughout fields.

Presentation from Five Colleges Inc

- Neil Abraham from Five Colleges, Inc provided an overview of efforts to promote research collaborations throughout the five colleges. He provided background on the organization, from its roots as a mechanism for sharing journal subscriptions to its current focus on buying power, collaborations, and resource sharing. This organization is responsible for bringing the high speed fiber optic network that connects the campuses and is working on connecting it to the new high speed computing center in Holyoke.
 - The consortium office has about 35 people and exists at the behest and financial support of all member institutions. They are legally separate but programmatically driven by five college requests.
 - They work to support a research active five college community, linking researchers to each other and to equipment they may need to use. They routinely help faculty find each other through seminars, workshops, and other targeted networking opportunities.
 - The organization works to support faculty, graduate, post doc, undergraduate research.
 - M. Maroney wondered what the next steps would be if a PI had a proposal going out but wanted to add a five-college component to it. N. Abraham indicated that Five-College would help you search out a collaborator within the other colleges.
 - M. Weinberg asked about the potential for proposals being submitted by 5-College Inc. N. Abrahams indicated that the organization is open to this.
 - N. Abrahams indicated that the collaborative opens up new areas of funding, partnerships and research. They are concerned about missed opportunities and

are currently constructing a database of five college researchers and their interests that will encourage collaboration.

Statement on NIH funding priorities (Jane Kent-Braun)

- J. Kent-Braun presented information on NIH's October solicitation for feedback on how to manage budget cuts.
 - NIH has made loads of data available and there is an ongoing NIH blog for discussion on how to fund "outstanding biomedical research".
 - There is some concern that big centers are affecting dollars going to RPG (individual investigators). Actually three-quarters of the funds are still going to RPGs.
 - NIH has projected drops in the success rate based on anticipated % RPG budget cuts.
- Options for NIH include the following:
 - Reduce or limit size of awards. This would increase number of awards granted.
 - Limit number of awards held by an PI
 - Limit salaries of PI
- What VCRE Malone is hearing from NIH contacts in D.C. is that NIH is going to give fewer awards. He noted that the budget cuts under consideration will probably be enacted for FY13, not this year.
 - M. Aelion also shared information she had received at a recent conference.
- RC members felt that the RC should prepare a statement and participate in the discussion. Motion passed without dissent.
 - J. Kent-Braun will prepare a statement for the Dec 9 meeting. All feedback should be sent to her directly.

Updates and Q & A with VCRE Malone

- VCRE Malone recently spoke at Faculty Senate meeting. Slides from that presentation are up on RC blog.
- He provided an update on Research Fellows, indicating a move toward benefiting everyone in that position.

- Meeting adjourned at 10:30.