

**University of Massachusetts Amherst  
Research Council of the Faculty Senate  
David R. Evans, Chair  
2008-2009  
Minutes  
December 5, 2008**

**PRESENT:** J. Adams, L. Clarke, D. Evans, C. Jacelon, J. Kent-Braun, M. Lowance, M. Maroney, D. Ostendorf, W. Patterson, S. Rich, J. Schafer, P. Cormier, P. KostECKi, M. Malone, A. Mangels, E. May, B. McCandless, H. Woodcock

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m.

Chair David R. Evans introduced new Council member Lori Clarke, Professor of Computer Science.

The minutes of the November 7, 2008 meeting were unanimously approved.

Hilary Woodcock, Director of University Research Compliance, introduced and explained a draft policy document entitled *Policy: Safety and Training Protocols for Visiting Scientists.* After discussion it was noted that the title would be changed to reflect visiting scientists and scholars. Also, Vice Chancellor KostECKi requested the addition of consequences for visiting scientists and scholars who do not follow policy. The policy will be amended to contain a phrase that "non-compliance may result in denial of access University facilities and services." The attached policy was unanimously approved with amendments and will be forwarded to the Faculty Senate for its approval.

Prof. Mike Maroney of the Research Policy Sub-committee presented their PI-RTF Report which dealt with the role of the 10% RTF return to principal investigators. Dr. Maroney explained the contents of the report and conclusions drawn. The subcommittee concluded that it does not appear that researchers are hoarding funds but are maintaining a rainy day fund roughly equivalent to 10% of the indirect costs generated by their programs over a five-year period. After discussion the attached report will be amended and forwarded to the Budget Task Force.

Ernie May, Secretary of the Faculty and member of the Budget Task Force, discussed budget cut developments. He stated that pools of money, including RTF, will be looked at very closely. Outreach and research will be encouraged to become self-sufficient. Other potential effects on the research community include: pressures for salary recovery, increases in the Curriculum Fee, and more attention to measures of research productivity. Some of these will likely have a strong negative impact on graduate student recruitment and retention. The Chair of the Research Council was delegated to prepare and submit a memo commenting on these issues to the Budget Task Force.

Carol Sprague, Director of OGCA, presented a draft document entitled: *Principal and Co-Principal Investigators: Eligibility, Roles, Rights, Responsibilities, and Obligations*. Much discussion followed on the confusion of the definition and responsibilities of co-investigators. It was suggested that another paragraph be included allowing a category for "associated" or "other" investigators. The draft guide will be re-edited, streamlined and emailed to the Research Council. Eventually this guide will be added to the Research web page and become part of Research training procedures.

Vice Chancellor Paul Kostecki updated the Research Council of the status of review of Centers and Institutes. Who owns Centers and Institutes and who evaluates them? Kostecki proposed that the new Office of Vice Chancellor for Research and Engagement take responsibility for ownership, identification, and evaluation of Centers and Institutes. Previous documents suggest that all Centers and Institutes should be evaluated every five years. This has not been happening. He will update the Council again in February.

The chair thanked the members for their hard work during an active and productive semester. The remainder of the agenda was suspended until the February meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 10:35 a.m.