

**University of Massachusetts Amherst  
Research Council of the Faculty Senate  
Paul Utgoff, Chair  
2006-2007  
Minutes  
February 2, 2007**

**PRESENT:** I. Agha, L. Button, C. Clifton, K. Danai, A. Foulkes, B. Gerace, D. Gilbert, M. Lowance, D. Ostendorf, W. Patterson, P. Utgoff, A. Mangels, T. Butterfield, E. Glogowski, P. Kostecki, B. McCandless, N. Khan, J. Schafer, H. Woodcock

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. Minutes of the December 8, 2006 meeting were approved unanimously.

Copies of the most recent Report on Research were distributed to all Research Council members. The Report is also available on the Research web page. Paul Utgoff suggested that this report be sent to all faculty because it tells our campus story so well, and many faculty are not likely to search for it on the web.

Paul Kostecki, Vice Provost for Research, updated the Council on new hires in the Research area. CVIP has offered positions to two applicants and OGCA has hired two additional personnel. The new intellectual property procedures are working well. The President's Office has hired consultants to review current IP procedures but as yet no official report has been issued. The Environmental Institute external review has been completed and a report will be forthcoming soon. Also, the Genomics Facility review has been completed and an MOU signed. The VPR brought the Council up-to-date on the Sensitive Research Working Group which was established in response to several recently granted exceptions to research policy that would exclude open disclosure of research. The Group will look at the exceptions in greater detail and familiarize themselves with how other institutions handle these situations. The goal is to look beyond the exceptions and also to look at how to prioritize sensitive research on campus. Kostecki also announced The Armstrong Fund for Science which is an internal grant competition made possible through a bequest to the University from John and Elizabeth Armstrong. The Fund is intended for faculty members with aggressive research visions which represent a new initiative. More information may be found on the Research web page.

Andy Mangels, representing Administration and Finance, stated that the PeopleSoft financial systems upgrade has occurred. Transition to the new systems appears to be smooth however, for those people having a problem adjusting to the new system; drop-in sessions are available to provide further assistance. His office will be focusing on how to record cost sharing information in the new system and also improving time and effort reporting. Mangels suggested his office do a presentation to the Council about time and effort reporting.

Representing the Graduate Dean, Nigar Khan stated that the National Research Council reviews are in process with about a 60% response from faculty to date. A tracking system for graduate student progress will be up by June. The Graduate Deans office is discussing placing a mandated ethics course on line. Next year's Graduate School catalog will be on line. This year's Graduate Commencement will take place on Friday, May 25 from 1:00-3:00. A subcommittee of the Graduate Council is looking into statutes of limitation and also into Graduate Faculty criteria.

Tony Butterfield, representing the Graduate Council, stated that the Graduate Council will be looking into graduate certificates. Faculty Senate policy doesn't distinguish between undergraduate and graduate certificates.

Bruce McCandless, updating for OGCA, happily announced that we are ahead of last years total of indirect costs received; grants received, and grant dollars received.

Hilary Woodcock, Research Compliance, told the Council that the annual summary of animals and animal protocols appears to be about the same as last year. Human subject protocols, however, have increased greatly. A useful new resource provides on-line training for student investigators, students who are study subjects, and the investigators who support them. Also, proposed state legislation for Massachusetts would, if passed, put in place new requirements for biosafety oversight.

Jay Schafer, Director of Libraries, announced that the second annual Digital Quadrangle Series would take place on March 29, 2007 and all are invited. Three participants from the University, including UMass Press Director Bruce Wilcox, Marilyn Billings, and Professor Linda Enghagen, attended the ARL/ACRL Institute for Scholarly Communication.

William Patterson, Chair of the Research Policy Committee handed out copies of a questionnaire that was distributed to all active PIs which dealt with the impact of the curriculum fee on research programs. His committee will be reviewing the results at their next meeting and will report back to the entire Council. It was also suggested that the information gathered from this questionnaire would be of extreme interest to the Graduate Council and will be made available to them. The Research Policy Committee is also reviewing the change in the academic calendar and a phased retirement system being considered by the faculty union.

Research Council Chair Paul Utgoff, referred the Council to Faculty Senate By-Laws reminding the Council that it has been a number of years since its charge has been reviewed. He specifically called attention to the section (d) which stated that the Council "Review applications for research grant programs which limit the number of applications an institution may submit,....." This procedure is now handled by the VPR and Deans and should be removed as a charge. Utgoff handed out a sheet that listed the roles of the Research Council. After discussion and suggestion, he will draft a revision of the By-Laws incorporating the "roles." This will be brought back before the Council at a future meeting.

The Research Council adjourned at 10:28 a.m.