

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

PRESENT: C. Clifton, W. Gerace, D. Gilbert, D. Ostendorf, P. Utgoff, A. Mangels, T. Butterfield, P. Kostecki, M. Malone, B. McCandless, K. Melnattur, J. Schafer, C. Sprague, H. Woodcock

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. Minutes of the February 2, 2007 meeting were approved unanimously.

Research Council Chair Paul Utgoff announced that Council member Iqbal Agha representing the Isenberg School of Management has resigned from the Council due to time constraints.

Dean Mike Malone, representing the Provost, announced that UMass Amherst should be receiving 19 new faculty positions as part of the 250 plan. Some of these positions will be used in support of major research initiatives.

Vice Provost for Research Paul Kostecki announced that the deadlines for two President's Office initiatives, S&T competitive funds and the Creative Economy Fund, had come and passed. The Vice Provost, along with the ORA, CVIP, and RL&D offices, will prioritize the 13 proposals which will be sent to the Deans and forwarded to the President. There was also discussion on the indirect cost waiver for new investigator grants. Regarding this, the VPR stated that a memo will be sent to Deans for their input. His office is presently re-evaluating its position on not waiving IC for NSF New Investigator proposals. Paul also announced that CVIP is about to hire two new licensing staff. Paul Utgoff asked about the recent change in policy not to waive overhead (indirect costs) for NSF Career Awards, observing that this change effects a considerable reduction in funds available to the PI for direct costs. Paul Kostecki indicated that indirect costs for these awards would continue to be waived upon request.

Andy Mangels, representing Administration and Finance, explained that the ongoing NSF visit is focusing on review of cost sharing recording. Their concern is how do we know that subcontractors cost share is actual and committed to the grants and how do we insure that cost share being reported is reasonable. The new PeopleSoft financial system is up and running. Most problems are technical and out of Shrewsbury.

Graduate Council representative Tony Butterfield reported that they are dealing with the decline of graduate student RAs on grants in favor of post-docs. Statute of limitations and graduate faculty issues are being dealt with by Council task groups.

OGCA Director Carol Sprague reported that two new proposal review employees will start soon but that OGCA programmer has resigned and that position will need to be filled. Also, they are continuing to struggle with new electronic systems with grants.gov.

Hilary Woodcock, Research Compliance Coordinator, announced the hire of a new compliance person to assist the biosafety officer in EH&S. She gave an update on animal care issues.

Graduate Student Senate representative Krishna Melnattur shared a motion from GSS and GEO which will be presented to the Board of Trustees at their meeting on March 14 regarding an increase in student fees.

Jay Shaffer, Director of Libraries, announced that the second annual Digital Quadrangle Series sponsored by the UMass Amherst Libraries, Office of Research, Graduate School and Center for Teaching will take place on March 29. The Series entitled “Showcasing Research and Teaching in the 21st Century: A Digital Approach” will feature NASULGC Vice President for Academic Affairs David Schulenburger.

Representing Research Policy Committee Chair William Patterson, Paul Utgoff presented a memo regarding the Graduate Curriculum Fee Questionnaire Responses which will be sent by the Research Council to the Graduate Dean. The Research Council made suggestions which will be incorporated and the memo will be sent.

Discussion continued from previous meetings regarding review of Research Council By-Laws. The following amendments were made to current by-laws.

Section 10: 5-10-1 (c) should now read “Review and make recommendations regarding the awarding of research and scholarships-oriented grants and awards such as Faculty Research Grants (FRGs), Healey Endowment Grants, Faculty Fellowships and Conti Faculty Fellowships.”

Section 10: 5-10-1 (d) should now read “Make recommendation to Faculty Senate upon approval of new research centers and institutes.”

Section 10: 5-10-2 – Add to membership list the Research Compliance Coordinator (ex officio).

A motion was made to send the amended By-Laws to the Faculty Senate. This was seconded and unanimously approved.

The Research Council adjourned at 10:26 a.m.