

**University of Massachusetts Amherst  
Research Council of the Faculty Senate  
Paul Utgoff, Chair  
2005-2006  
Minutes  
April 7, 2006**

**PRESENT:** J. Adams, I. Agha, C. Clifton, K. Danai, D. Ostendorf, W. Patterson, J. Schafer, L. Sievert, J. Swinney, M. Taunton, P. Utgoff, A. Mangels, T. Butterfield, P. Kostecki, E. May, B. McCandless, E. Glogowski, C. Sprague, M. Malone, H. Woodcock

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

The minutes of the previous meeting, March 3, 2006, were unanimously approved.

Paul Utgoff reported that the Annual Report of the 2004-05 Research Council was accepted by the Faculty Senate.

Vice President Marcie Williams has received an open invitation to attend the May 5<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Research Council to discuss, among other things, conflict of interest concerns. Vice Provost Kostecki stated that the System-wide Research Council has been called for same day so she may not be able to attend.

Dean Michael Malone, representing Provost Seymour, suggests that the Committee involved in Faculty Research Mentoring meet with Mary Deane Sorcinelli to include The Center for Teaching in discussions regarding faculty mentoring. Committee Chair Sievert and Vice Provost Kostecki reported that that has happened.

Vice Provost Kostecki commended Marilyn Billings, Jay Schafer, and Marla Michel on the success of the well attended inaugural event of the Digital Quadrangle Series entitled *Research and Scholarship in the Digital Age: An Exploration*. He also announced that the Annual Awards Dinner set for Wednesday, May 17 in the Campus Center Auditorium will focus only on research awards and recognitions including the Conti Fellowships, the new Patent Recognition Awards, Faculty Research Grant awardees, etc. In the past, teaching and advising awards have been included in the event.

Administration and Finance representative Andrew Mangels updated the Council on progress with the consultant firm hired to review faculty ad comp. The consultants have analyzed various types of ad comp and a report will be forthcoming in the next few weeks. Mangels also reported that he will be sending out annual reminders/check-list for grant audits.

Graduate Council representative Tony Butterfield reported that the Council is working on revamping the fellowship program and differential weighing of graduate courses. The Council is also reviewing the Joint Authorship Policy which has never been submitted to the Faculty Senate. The policy will be shared with the Research Council (electronically) and jointly submitted to the Faculty Senate hopefully before the Senate retires for the Summer.

OGCA Director Carol Sprague handed out reports on proposals submitted and awards accepted in March 2006. She reported that the number of proposals and the number of awards are up from the previous year but that dollars are down. However, that should change during April as several large awards have been recorded.

Bruce McCandless reported to the Council that during one of the Deans' Research Meetings questions were raised about service and experience when submitting proposals. McCandless developed a short questionnaire which was submitted to a sample group of faculty when all data is received it will be analyzed and reported to the Research Council. One troubling aspect that has come out of the data is that of the faculty who submitted proposals two-thirds reported that they had no support at the department or college level which concludes that support is needed at levels other than OGCA central. McCandless will bring this information to the attention of the Faculty Senate Rules Committee, Chancellor and Provost as they continue discussions regarding the 250 Plan.

Compliance Coordinator Hilary Woodcock announced that a minimally compliant health and safety program has been launched for animal users. She also reported that a lab safety manual and a radiation safety manual are under review.

Graduate Student Representative Elizabeth Glogowski reported on behalf of several concerned students that there is a lack of communication between graduate students and the Graduate School relating to degree progress. Tony Butterfield will bring the concerns to the attention of Graduate Dean John Mullin.

Director of Libraries Jay Schafer and Special Initiatives Librarian Marilyn Billings presented examples of the University of Rochester's web-based showcase pages highlighting faculty research. The Faculty Senate Research Library Council is exploring the idea of building an Institutional Repository at UMass Amherst. Billings also handed out a faculty survey regarding institutional repository and encouraged any Council members and their department faculty to return the survey.

Jean Swinney, Chair of the Research Centers/Institutes Subcommittee, reported that, based on the information and suggestions given by Faculty Senate Secretary Ernie May during their meeting on March 17, developed and collectively refined a form for follow-up/evaluation of UMass Research Centers and Institutes. The form will be presented to the Research Council after the subcommittee receives guidance and feedback from Vice Provost Kostecki.

Lynnette Leidy Sievert, Chair of the Research Policy Subcommittee focusing on research faculty mentoring, presented a draft memo which will be presented to the Provost after Council input. Intra-departmental recommendations included stressing, at the time of hire, the relative importance of research and scholarship; developing a checklist for new faculty to review each year regarding journal submissions, conference travel, grant funding; provide travel money; providing a rotating course release to free up time to write grants; using the AFR personnel committee as an opportunity to evaluate faculty members' progress. Intra-college recommendations included trying new models to increase research productivity; investing in grant-writing assistance; investing in a resource person to help identify grant options; and

paring new faculty members with established faculty who share common research interest but who reside in different departments within the college. University-level recommendations included gathering data, increasing communication, funding new initiative, and promoting seminars. After discussion and the receipt of several new suggestions, the memo will return to the subcommittee to be updated and resubmitted to the whole Research Council.

Adjournment at 10:38 a.m.