

**University of Massachusetts Amherst  
Research Council of the Faculty Senate  
David Ostendorf, Chair  
2004-2005  
Minutes  
March 11, 2005**

Present: J. Donais, D. Gilbert, N. Khan, P. Kostecky, M. Lowance, M. Malone, A. Mangels, B. McCandless, P. Mendoza, D. Ostendorf, W. Patterson, J. Schafer, L. Sievert (recorder), M. Taunton, H. Woodcock, P. Utgoff

Mike Malone: Reiterated a request for members to meet, particularly at open meetings, with candidates for dean positions. Feedback forms will be available, confidential, not anonymous.

Paul Kostecky: Research Leadership in Action program launched with an orientation meeting on March 10, 2005. CVIP Director search is underway; four initial candidates have already met with him and search committee, at least two more to come.

Andy Mangels: To New York to negotiate campus's indirect cost rate for federal grants, four year deal instead of three year deal, 55% this year, 56 ½ %, 57%, 57%. A major concern involved the allocation of space, an area in which "we need to get a bit more sophisticated" with regard to funded research.

Nigar Khan: Two graduate dean candidates interviewed (only 2 to be interviewed). Next meeting March 22, 2005, 1 graduate student attended one interview, 2 graduate students attended the other.

Due to curriculum fees, some PI's are suggesting that they would benefit from supporting postdoc's rather than graduate students. The research Community, through the Research Council, has already taken a position on the curriculum fee. There is support for 2300/yr only if the fee is linked to the periodical budget of library (May memo). Curriculum fee is now doubled, soon to be tripled, and no link has been made to library periodicals. The research community should be reminded of the Research Council's policy on postdoc's, health coverage, and term limits. Personnel closely monitors postdoc hires and OGCA directs people to policy. Self-supported postdoc's still must be approved. The discussion reflected the vulnerability of postdoc's and how guidelines should be made available. Research Council is tracking the number of RA's.

Jen Donais: 7% behind, 3% growth, 2/3 year through, making up some ground, still concern.

Graduate Student Senate: Undergrad has chartered standing in the room. New graduate student (replacement) tentatively found.

Research Policy Committee: With regard to campus-wide research products, recommendations are in progress to bring to Research Council. Recommended discussion with deans/departments as the burdens of information compilation (from AFR) will be felt at local level. There should be a mechanism so the PI doesn't have to do it all again.

FRG: List of grant recipients provided. Needed to extend deadline for next competition to March 21, 2005, due to delays. Already 25 proposals submitted, interpreted as a sustained intense interest in the program. Co-mingle of FRG and Healey hoping to amass \$100,000 internal funds. Deans are sharing the risk. Deans and Provost want to track successful OGCA proposals that come from these FRGs. High success may increase the amount of money available next year. FRG report is currently demanded at project close-out plus 90 days. The 90 days may be extended in order to add successful OGCA proposal grant numbers. To be discussed at Dean's meeting. Committee members who haven't reviewed in past will review proposals in the Spring.

Review of Mass NanoTech Center: Reviewed by three Councils, report back to Research Council in May.

Encouraged all to visit the Chancellor's budget website. Entry on indirect cost distribution doesn't give much information on how 70% indirect costs are distributed.

Cost of clean-up of hazardous materials, EHS: Last week the Chemical Safety Committee met, minutes provided. Funding has been level for 9 years although there has been an excess volume of work due to close-outs, e.g. retirements. The work is more expensive when someone isn't there to say what things are. To this point, costs have been absorbed but EHS is worried about penalties which are more excessive than disposal costs. Have been carrying out on-campus analyses and employing 2 RA's from Chemistry Department to analyze about 2,000 unknown substances each year. Suggestions: use EPA methods to meet EPA concerns and save costs, use existing labs, emphasize prevention, make an inventory of all chemicals on campus. Future – will address disposal, proper storage, labeling, safety concerns, hazardous management training (at present 70-75% compliance). Policy and Procedures circulated. Under OGCA terms and conditions, for a PI to receive an award EHS needs two weeks to check labs, check safety and check training.

Question – Allowable indirect cost item? Yes

Meeting adjourned at 10:05 a.m.