

**University of Massachusetts Amherst  
Research Council of the Faculty Senate  
Paul Utgoff, Chair  
2006-2007  
Minutes  
September 15, 2006**

**PRESENT:** L. Button, C. Clifton, K. Danai, A. Foulkes, D. Gilbert, D. Ostendorf, W. Patterson, L. Sievert, J. Swinney, M. Taunton, P. Utgoff, J. Zamora, A. Mangels, P. KostECKi, M. Malone, B. McCandless, N. Khan, J. Schafer, C. Sprague, H. Woodcock

The meeting was called to order at 8:30 a.m. The earlier time was to accommodate Convocation. Future Research Council meetings will start at 9:00 a.m.

The first order of business for the new academic year was to elect a new Research Council Chairperson. Paul Utgoff's name was put forward, seconded, and passed.

The minutes of the May 5, 2006 were approved as presented.

Dean Michael Malone, representing the Provost, introduced Paul KostECKi as the new Vice Provost for Research. He also updated the Council on 250 Plan new hires, negotiated and postponed searches as well as departures. The figures are lower than originally stated because of additional dollars being appropriated for new facilities, maintenance. The Council discussed 250 Plan financing including appropriation designations.

Vice Provost KostECKi announced that sponsored research activity was up 3% for the last fiscal year. There were more proposals but fewer and smaller awards. Future focus will be on expansion to the private sector. There will be system-wide discussion based on review of outside consultants and the Board of Trustees regarding IP policies for the system. A report is expected to the Board of Trustees this October. The Research area is developing new resources to provide for the research community. Research continues to improve its ability to aide research on campus by filling several new positions in OGCA, Animal Care and CVIP. Prof. KourosH Danai suggested that PIs be able to download budget spread sheets with fringe and salaries during the pre-award period. Bruce McCandless and Carol Sprague will continue to work to make this available to PIs.

Andy Mangels, representing Administration and Finance, stated that he will be getting together with departmental administrators to look at post-award business processes and to focus on systems relating to the GAMS conversion. Also, the final retroactive payment which encompasses fiscal year 2002 will be paid out by mid-October. There was some discussion on how in the future to prevent paying out retros for expired grants explaining that delays are impediments to on-campus research and staff retention.

Nigar Khan, representing Graduate Dean Mullin, announced that about 9,000 applications had been received for this academic year and that 3,800 had been international applicants. 3,000 students had been admitted of which 775 were international admits. The Graduate School was looking into the number of years it takes to complete a doctoral degree and how many students actually complete those degrees. Also, the Graduate School will be going paperless very soon. Already electronic dissertations are being accepted and by next year that function will be mandatory. The Graduate Bulletin should be paperless in a few years.

Hilary Woodcock, University Research Compliance Coordinator, stated that the USDA had conducted an inspection this past summer and a number of small deficiencies were noted. It is hoped that the new Supervisor of Animal Care position will eliminate and alleviate these deficiencies. The OLAW assurance review is still in process. The Biosafety Committee has separated into two committees with one dealing exclusively with rDNA.

Leslie Button, representing the WEB Dubois Library, announced that the libraries support access to two plagiarism prevention technologies and faculty members are encouraged to try these services and provide feedback. She also announced that a new library catalog is in place that provides improved access to the millions of resources of the 5-College Library system. The software will make searching for information easier. The 3-year construction on the deck around the Dubois Library is about to wrap up.

In discussing OLD BUSINESS, Paul Kostecki has spoken with Bryan Harvey who has indicated that an electronic version of the AFR will be unveiled in the coming weeks. The version will allow the development of a "Web-based Showcase" that was discussed by the VPR and Research Council last year. Harvey suggests that his office, the VPR and RC Chair meet to discuss how the Showcase should be developed, administered and maintained. Provost Seymour will be invited soon to an upcoming Research Council meeting to discuss faculty mentoring. The Data Ownership policy was approved by the Faculty Senate on May 18 but the union wants to negotiate the issue so discussion will continue this academic year. The Research Council will solicit PIs about what effect the Curriculum Fee has had on their research.

#### NEW BUSINESS:

Research Council membership does not seem to cover all deanships/disciplines specifically there are no members from the life sciences. The Faculty Senate Committee on Committee has explained that they assigned membership based on volunteerism. Paul Utgoff wrote an outline of what the Research Council does and sent it with a cover message to Deans, Heads and Chairs, and to Arthur Kinney, chair of the Committee on Committees. He received two replies directly and expects that there will be an enriched pool of volunteers. Utgoff will be attending the November 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting of the Committee on Committees when new Research Council members will be selected.

Paul Kostecki announced that the System-wide Research Council has met once and that they are trying to schedule for the new academic year. UMass Amherst needs to replace Lee Edwards on that Council.

Research Council by-laws need to be updated including how to elect a new Chair.

Paul Utgoff will be writing last year's annual report and will be sending a note to last year's committee chairs for a brief summary of their actions to be included in the annual report.

OGCA was invited to make a presentation to the Research Council about its processes.

There was discussion of the Policy Committee's assignments for this academic year. If you wish to serve on the Policy Committee, please make Paul Utgoff aware of your desire. The NRC review of doctoral programs is scheduled for this year. John Mullin is the University point person with Paul Kostecki and Marilyn Blaustein also involved. It was suggested that Marilyn Blaustein be invited to a Council meeting to give a review of NRC progress.

The Research Council adjourned at 9:59 a.m.