

**University Research Council**

**January 19, 2021**

**4 – 5:30 p.m.**

**Approved**

**Present:** Maryam Ahmed, Elaine Berry, Erin Bouldin, Andrew Caldwell, Megen Culpepper, Beth Fiske, Karen Fletcher, Soo Goh, Christine Hendren, Marie Hoepfl, Charna Howson, Ece Karatan, Gary McCullough, Pam Mitchem, Deb Paxton, Abhi Ramalingam, Twila Wingrove

**Excused:** Becki Battista, Alicia Jackson, Mina Min, Rebecca Witter

**Absent:**

**Staff:** Kate Hoffman

➤ Ece Karatan calls the meeting to order.

**New Business**

1. Approval of the [November 17, 2020 minutes](#)

MOTION (Bouldin, Ahmed): approve the minutes from the November 17, 2020 meeting .

VOTE: 13 – Approved, 0 - Opposed, 3 - Abstained. Motion passes.

2. Spring 2021 URC Grant competition - Karen Fletcher

The same review panels will be assigned unless [grs@appstate.edu](mailto:grs@appstate.edu) is contacted. If the panel assignment will not work, please let GRS know.

3. Research and Creative Activity Enterprise Overview and Highlights

Administrative Units share [PowerPoint slides](#).

Grants Resources and Services: In fiscal year 2020 there were fifty nine internal grant awards. RECAP event was held virtually last year (virtual event for this year). First in nation among master's institutions for number of fulbright awardees. GRS partnered with Sponsored Programs and Office of International Education and Development for Fulbright Week.

Sponsored Programs: Strategic goal of \$18.3 million in external funding has been exceeded as the current amount is \$28.6 million. Projects are more complex. There is more interaction between PIs and Sponsored Programs. Cayuse will replace AGrants. It is a one stop shop system. However, it will look similar to AGrants. Cayuse will transfer proposals directly to a federal sponsor. A dashboard will show finding funding, proposal submission, compliance, IBC protocols, and conflict of interest. The system communicates with Banner to show current activity and balance data.

Research Protections: Remote working has allowed for the improvement and streamlining of processes. RP is focusing on growing intellectual property and technology transfer programs. The IDEA Ambassadors encourage development and use of intellectual property and business partnerships. RP is partnering with tech transfer offices at other universities and small business development centers to grow the program, identify new funding opportunities, and connect with business communities.

Research Design and Analysis: RDA has expanded its services and workshops and has seen an increase in clients served and workshop online attendance.

Special Funds Accounting: SFA provides fiscal reporting on all grants and contracts. The Office of the Controller presents Finance and Administration updates (previously RDA meetings). SFA is now fully staffed and is working on training new employees. Effort reporting is online. Facilities and administrative cost proposal to DHHS increased on campus rates to a 38% and off campus rates to 19%. Cayuse has a built in effort reporting system. Elaine Berry attends and provides presentations for Virginia Tech's Certified Research Administrator program.

Graduate School: GRAM awards, typically there are twenty annually at \$12,000 a year. Eleven will start Fall 2021. Harkrader Foundation funds ten each at \$1,000 per award for graduate faculty seed grants. Recognitions with cash awards of \$500 or \$1,000 can be used toward research supplies and travel for distinguished faculty. The Wachovia award is for students or faculty, but typically faculty are funded. GSGA research and travel grants award up to \$500 in the Fall and Spring semesters (17 awarded in the 2020 calendar year). Graduate assistantships in research and teaching make up over \$3 million and the lion's share of these are TAs from the College of Arts and Sciences..

Student Research: Becki Battista is unable to join the meeting, but has submitted a [YouTube video](#) that explains Student Research's slide.

Institute for Health and Human Services: IHHS supports the [research affiliations](#) of research affiliate, associate or fellow faculty level designations that submit external grant proposals through IHHS. Faculty fellows have funding worth over \$500,000 through the institute.

Community clinical research faculty affiliates are hospital physicians, and nurses, who want to work with faculty. Anyone can work with IHHS regardless of college affiliation. Individual support is provided on a case by case basis and is usually \$1,000 - \$3,000. The Endowed Prof of Public Health allows for one course release as a director in directing community based research, especially interdisciplinary research. IHHS supports two grants of up to \$5,000 each for interdisciplinary research. Also, IHHS co-sponsored an awardee in tandem with RIEEE's CONCERT grants. Department of Defense and Department of Education grants are ongoing. There are two new NIH submissions. More faculty that have existing awards with NIH funding are coming to campus.

Research Institute for Environment Energy and Economics: Check out our new logo on this slide. Leading transdisciplinary external grants, the support of multi-and transdisciplinary teams in proposal development, and administering \$3.1 million in grants \$3.1 million under RIEEE are highlighted. Additional F&A receipts are returned back to the PIs who use RIEEE. Anyone may use RIEEE services regardless of college affiliation. Alignment of center, institute, inventorying, data sets, RAMP course impact of applied research with the Honors College are ways to interact with RIEEE. Five CONCERT grants have been awarded, one with IHHS.

#### 4. [Bridge Strategic Plan 2020-2022](#)

Ece Karatan shares that Soo Goh is on a subcommittee that drafts the plan. The final version of the plan will get approved by the Board of Trustees and the Board of Governors. Dr. Goh explains that there is such a large volume of information to be covered within the document. It is very difficult to write. There have been debates about whether to include sustainability.

There are many questions regarding the plan. How do we set up new faculty to be successful? How is the outcome of this plan measured? How are the targeted goals achieved? Who is held accountable for achieving this plan? More specifics are needed as to how to execute the plan.

Ece asks for URC member's feedback on this document. The Office of Research and RIEEE will submit feedback separately. Faculty members and administrative members are split into two groups for fifteen minutes to discuss the plan. Two individuals from each group will help guide the discussions as one will act as a chair of the group and the other will be a scribe and take notes.

All members reconvene and Ece asks for one person to volunteer from the faculty membership to work with Marie Hoepfl to make recommendations. Email Ece if you wish to volunteer.

Adjournment (Ahmed, Bouldin) at 5:30 pm