

Research Council Minutes
April 29th, 2020
3:00pm – 4:00pm
WebEx

VOTING:

Jason Carter
Rollin Beamish
Mary Cloninger
Ron June
Brent Peyton/Robin Gerlach
Nic Rae
William Ruff

Alice Running
Colin Shaw
Nicole Tuss
Blake Wiedenheft
Carl Yeoman
Nicholas Childs

NON-VOTING:

Craig Ogilvie
Kearns, Chris/ Jim Mitchell
Leist, Terry
Mokwa, Robert/ Singel, David
Schmidt, Leslie
Hilmer, Jonathan
Jayne Morrow

VP Carter called the meeting to order at 4 pm. VP Carter motion to move the minutes; the minutes were approved unanimously.

1. Brief Announcements

a. Research Continuity updates

- VP Carter shared a conversation on Research Continuity Forums. The feedback and attendance were good. The survey showed that going forward to bi-weekly or monthly forums will be sufficient for updates.
- More forums are scheduled next week for VPREDGE internal funding opportunities such as REF, S&C, HASS and COVID.

b. Internal Grants – REF, S&C, COVID, HASS

- VP Carter updated on Internal Grants in terms of who will be serving as the chair for each of the review committees
- REF will be chaired by Lee Spangler; S&C and HASS will be chaired by Liz Shanahan; COVID-19 internal grants will be chaired by Mark Jutila.
- A key change from previous years is that no summer salary is allowed, but course buyouts are allowable if dept head/dean support request. The S&C, REF and COVID will also move to a rolling deadline for proposal submissions as faculty identify needs for funding; however HASS it is likely that a firm deadline after further discussion.
- Ron June questioned what the current unexpended balance is for prior VPREDGE internal funding. VP Carter reported that spending has been somewhat mixed and that one faculty member wasn't even aware that funding had been provided, so there is room for improvement on this. Process will be more closely coordinated with OSP moving forward. He would like to follow up on tracking of the expenses and provide that at a

later date. If faculty members would like to request additional time for completion of their projects they will need to provide an explanation of what the unexpended funds are needed for, why they have not been utilized, and what the anticipated time line is for completion. VP Carter is reviewing these on a case-by-case basis.

c. Shared Expenditure Reporting

- Leslie Schmidt and VP Carter have been talking about correcting the way we credit research on campus and have developed a methodology that will be activated in FY 21.
- The shared expenditure process will work by establishing a separate grant for each PI and/or center/institute to track expenditures to the preferred department so that expenditures are reflected as agreed upon at the proposal submission stage .
- OSP will utilize the ePCF to gather this information.
- Process also allows for C/Is to share credit.
- VP Carter expecting to share modifications to the ePCF at next RC meeting.

d. Research Operations and Governor's Phased Re-opening

- VP Carter shared the draft of the amendment of Research operations to be presented to the IRG and ET. The expected return to Level 1 research operations is May 18th. If a COVID-19 case is confirmed in a research laboratory, the lab will need to vacate for 7 days or coordinate a deep cleaning with Facilities. Deep cleaning option should be approach carefully, and could result in damaging some aspects of experiments and lab work being conducted.
- Ron June shared his concerns about how shared lab space will be handled and the potential of differing opinions and confusion on contaminated space.
- Craig Ogilvie commented on culture expectation in wearing a mask, if 6 feet space isn't possible.

e. Budget Discussion and Input

- VP Carter shared various planning scenarios and mentioned that the hiring moratorium applies more so to MUS contracts and primarily on state funding.
- There is general support from MSU admin and OCHE on continued hiring for research funded positions as it has potential to help MSU during this current financial situation. Requests will still have to go through exemption request process.
- OSP managed expenditures were slightly ahead of last year at the same time and VP Carter is cautiously optimistic about where MSU research activities may land at the end of this COVID situation.

f. Subcommittee Reports – C&I and/or Large Collaborative Projects

- VP Carter asked the sub-committee to share any updated reports.

- Brent Peyton shared that his sub-committee hasn't met again since last time, but would like to conduct a meeting with David Singel.
- Carl Yeoman shared there's no update from his committee but plans to conduct a survey.

g. Other/Future Topics?

- VP Carter asked if anyone would like to provide agenda item for May.
- Craig Ogilvie congratulated for the hard work and students who graduated this year during these unprecedented times.

Meeting adjourned at 4:44 pm

Next Research Council Meeting: June 3, 2020 3:30 pm