

# UAF Faculty Senate Research Advisory Committee Report

## Academic Year: 2011 to 2012

Chair: Peter Webley

Co-chair: Orion Lawlor

Additional Members: Sarah Hardy, Joanne Healy, Roger Hansen, Kris Hundertmark and John Heaton

Ex-officio member: VCR Mark Myers

### **Summary of work carried out my committee**

The Research Advisory Committee (RAC) held monthly meetings for the academic year 2011 - 2012. At the first monthly meeting, Peter Webley was elected chair for the year and Orion Lawlor as co-chair. These were voted in with unanimous approval of the committee.

#### *Frequently Asked Questions Document*

During the previous year, the RAC had been working upon a Frequently Asked Questions document, with its development being led by Orion Lawlor. The document provides details for any new and current faculty on how to start to get funding, managing your budget, managing staff/students/CO-I's on a project and what is meant by Grant, Fund and Org numbers. Although, some of this information is passed to new faculty by others in their own department/institute it was felt this needed to be included within one document. This was completed and approved by the committee. The recommendation, after some discussion, was to pass this onto Faculty Development as a useful document for incoming faculty.

#### *Statewide Research Plan*

At the 1<sup>st</sup> meeting of the year, RAC had Vice Chancellor for Research (VCR) Mark Myers in attendance to discuss the statewide research plan. VCR Meyers spoke about the committee and the representation of UAF and UA on it. This statewide plan was being driven by EPSCOR for Alaska to have a statewide research plan will assist in the state becoming an NSF EPSCOR state. He spoke about three public meetings to be held. The full plan was due to be made in May 2012. VCR Meyers also spoke about a "wiring diagram" for UAF research, to understand how to improve cross-UAF collaborations. This could definitely make it easier for people on lower campus to work together with people on upper campus.

#### *Major Research Instrumentation Grants*

The major topic of discussion at RAC's October meeting was a discussion with VCR Meyers on Major Research Instrumentation (MRI) program. VCR Meyers stated that there is a need for 30% matching funds and these need to be from state or other funds. There can be 2 proposal where UAF is the lead and at the moment there is no formal process of how to find out if one can submit an application. There was a discussion to have a meeting where all interested parties could attend and Mark said that we would look into the VCR office to set this up. This meeting took place later in 2011.

### *Undergraduate Research and Scholar Activity*

At the November 2011 meeting, the RAC invited Dr Barbara Taylor, the Director of the Undergraduate Research and Scholar Activity (URSA). The main questions for discussion was how URSA would aim to work with the current research ongoing at UAF and the current undergraduate and graduate students involved in research. Dr Taylor stated that the URSA's role is to help faculty to get funds for undergraduate support within UAF. Would like URSA to act as a office to match Undergraduate students with potential faculty. They will be a website that faculty and students could use to link to the URSA office. She'd like URSA to link faculty project ideas to the correct student. This would require some interaction between faculty, URSA office and student of interest to make sure all the relevant skills and requirements match. Further discussion is needed on how to include Dr Taylor in the RAC's duties, see future items for RAC.

### *Journal Open Access Policy*

During the October 2011 Faculty Senate meeting, Flora Grabowska of the GI Library spoke on Open Access policy at UAF. Therefore, the RAC invited her to speak to the committee at its January 2012 meeting. Flora provided a detailed overview of what Open Access is and that every year there is Open Access week in October. Flora pointed out that if a paper is open access then there will be more citations than if it was kept in a 'Toll Access' journal. Flora pointed out that she was only advocating that UAF faculty, staff, students whom do submit to journals to be encouraged to make them open access papers. It was decided by the committee that it might be institute, department, college level advisement to researchers to aim to include papers for open access rather than a faculty senate statement or policy decision.

### *UAF Policy and Regulations document*

The RAC committee worked on its required portions on the UAF Policy and Regulations document. in doing this, there was a long discussion on the Intellectual Property, Inventions and Patents sections. There was some thoughts on the rights of the university faculty/staff/student when they discover an invention or the ownership of the Intellectual Property. The outcome of this discussion was to provide feedback on the UAF Policy and Regulations document and aim to include someone from the UAF Office of Intellectual Property and Commercialization office to attend a future RAC meeting and have a discussion with the members.

### *Future items of consideration for Research Advisory committee*

Intellectual Property and Commercialization - There is an IPC office within UAF and we should bring someone from this office to speak to RAC on the office and its role across UAF to benefit researchers. This might be a first item on the agenda for Fall 2012

More interaction with URSA - RAC spoke about adding Barbara Taylor as an ex-officio member and the RAC should discuss this in Fall 2012.