

RAC Notes Final

Mon. Oct. 16, 2017

1-2pm, IARC Room 401

Online access: GoTo Meeting

Participants:

Online: Srijan Aggarwal

In-person: Andy Mahoney, Robert Rember, Larry Duffy., Jeff Benowitz, Anna Liljedahl.

Rosemary Madnick and Andrew Gray from OGCA joined in-person for ~20 minutes. Peter Webley, OIPC, visited for the full meeting.

Agenda

1. Approve notes from past mtg.

- a. Meeting notes approved.

2. Agenda

- a. Faculty Research Workload Survey
- b. Update on research safety funds suggestions
- c. Welcome packets for faculty new to research at UAF
- d. CGC student grant is ending
- e. Visit from OIP (1:30-2pm)

3. Federal Demonstration Partnership (FDP) Faculty Workload Survey

Rosemary: UAF will participate in the survey as a member of the FDP. The FDP administers a survey approximately every 5 yrs. The purpose of the survey is to estimate how much time that a researcher, who is involved in federally funded research, spends on administrative tasks relative to research activities and where that administration time is spent. The data collected is used to understand and quantify the effects of mandated administrative additions to Federal requirements and to assist with efforts to influence policy and practices from a well-informed perspective. There is an eligibility criteria to participate in the survey. Survey is 15 to 25 minutes. In addition to national results, UAF will receive the data that represent responses by survey participants at UAF.

4. Update on research safety funds

Anna said the RAC suggestions on how to invest and leverage the research safety funds were welcomed and appreciated by the research directors and deans on campus. The VCR's RPG committee agreed to keep the research safety as a permanent line on the RPG agenda for future meetings to assist in the leverage of the safety funds and to support developments in research safety on/off campus.

5. Welcome packets

The UA President has a goal to increase (double!) research revenue by year 2025. Increased research revenue could be achieved through new hires and/or supporting existing faculty. The Provost has in an exercise, based on historical data, estimated that UAF would need to hire 300 research faculty (assuming that each faculty bring in 400k annually in research revenue) in order to double the current UAF research revenue from ~100M to 200M per year. RAC discussed how to increase existing UAF faculty's proposal submission and success:

- Create an in-house equivalent of the URSA grant model for faculty.

- Before taking action, it is important to identify what the barriers are for faculty to be successful in proposal writing.
 - We have a problem with culture as some departments discourage faculty to submit proposals.
 - It is important by UAF leaders to push proposal submission as much as papers for during faculty promotion.
 - One faculty group to support is those who submits proposals but not successfully.
 - To decide on action items to increase research revenue by existing faculty, it is first key to identify which group of non-successful faculty is most common : a) those who rarely submit, b) those who submit but unsuccessfully, or c) and new hires.
 - OGCA has a written a report in collaboration with PAIR entitled: “Facilitating Sponsored Activities: A Collaborative Approach to Bridging Current Proposal Capabilities” .The implementation of shared services may have affected the submission/success rate. OGCA will share a report with us that may provide an answer.
 - OGCA don’t know the numbers on how many proposals that are almost fully prepared but that do not get submitted to the sponsor (another group of faculty to target to increase research revenue!) Such data is not captured in the Banner system. OGCA has put in a request to have the information captured in Banner.
 - Let’s do something for new hires such as a faculty orientation for research grants targeting new hires for tenure-track and research faculty.
- Anna will take the lead on a google doc to start prepare for a research grant orientation and welcome packets. Discussion to be continued during next meeting.

6. CGC Student grant is ending

- a. RAC discussed writing a letter to the Chancellor in favor of saving the Center for Global Change student grant program as several of the current successful faculty grant writers at UAF are alumni of the program, The CGC program trained student (now UAF faculty) in grant writing. The program has therefore supported research revenue for UAF.
→ Letter lead by Anna. Contributors who agreed to edit are Andy and Jeff.

7. Visit from OIPC

Peter Webley visited RAC, representing the Office of Intellectual Property and Commercialization (OIPC). He is currently one of two of the OIPC Ambassadors on campus. OIPC is currently working how to team up with UAF researchers to commercialize their products through SBIR/STTR’s. It is important that OIPC get to UAF faculty, staff and students early in their product development, to help them in invent disclosures and evaluate patent applications so that any potential opportunities are not lost. RAC members agreed to suggest to the Faculty Senate Administrative Committee to invite OIPC, through Director Gwen Holdmann, to give a guest talk at Faculty Senate

8. Meeting adjourned at 2:10pm.