

RAC Notes Final
Mon. Nov. 20, 2017
1-2pm, Duckering Room 535

Online access: GoTo Meeting

Participants

In-person: Jeff Benowitz, Srijan Agarwal, Andres Lopez, Robert Rember, Larry Duffy, Anna Liljedahl

Online: Andrew Mahoney

AGENDA

1. **Approve meeting minutes** from Oct. 16, 2017
Notes approved.
2. **NSF-CAREER workshop.** The VCR office are planning to postpone the workshop to January 23-25 due to change in staff (we originally recommended a date in November). VCR office is asking: Does Jan 23-25 work for faculty?
 - a. The only we can think of at Jan 23-35, 2018, is that the dates collide with the AMSS conference. Srijan suggests the VCR office asks directors and deans to identify faculty who plan to submit a CAREER as it is probably only 10-15 people at UAF. The interested parties can then find a good date.
3. **Letter to Chancellor about the value of a student award program like the ending CGC program.**

Anna has composed a draft letter, which was shared with RAC. She is waiting for some numbers to be revised (total cost of the CGC program and total revenue generated by alumni of CGC awards that are now working as faculty at UAF). Anna will update and ask for RAC to review over email before sending the letter to the Chancellor. Jeff suggested to emphasize the long track record of productivity by CGC alumni.
4. **Faculty representation on the UAF (VCR's) RPG and UA President's Research Council.**

RAC members agreed to ask the VCR if RAC can have a member participating in the VCR's monthly RPG meetings. Anna will contact the VCR. Await Chris' update on Research Council (FS or the Chancellor nominate the faculty representative)

 - a. Check if UAA and UAS has RAC-type committees (Anna)
 - b. We can update our RAC bylaws accordingly
5. **Chancellors Safety Forum** on Nov 28 - What are our concerns?
<https://news.uaf.edu/safety-forum-set-for-nov-8/>
 - a. Risks related to research safety ("*what keeps you up at night?*")
 - i. Helicopter

1. Mitigation: Helmets, safety training, follow industry standards, briefing about rescue and hospital resources prior field work
- ii. White water travel/crossing
 1. Mitigation: PFDs, hands-on training
- iii. Reduced state funding (staffing) results in less regular lab safety visits
 1. Mitigation: Invest more money in staff
- iv. Wild animals
 1. Mitigation: Training in food storage, electric fences, bear spray, fire arms

→ Andy suggested RAC create a campus-wide survey “*what keeps you up at night?*” to UAF researchers (faculty, staff)

6. New faculty research welcome package

UAF is far behind compared to other universities. We (Rob) has found resources, which are aimed at supporting faculty research productivity, from several universities. Some deals with details unique to each university, other with information relevant to anyone planning to submit to a federal agency. Andy found documents from other universities last year too (will share with us again). Rob and Andy to share doc's with RAC and VCR. Invite Larry and Cassie to next meeting to see how we can best help.

7. Other

RAC is still interested in having the VCR make successful proposals available on the VCR website. In addition, not all agencies makes it as easy to find who has been funded. NSF for example, post all the awards and PI's on their website. For other agencies, it is harder, if not impossible to figure out who has been successful. For UAF faculty applying to a program that they never applied to before (or applied to unsuccessfully), it would be helpful to know who has been successful and who therefore could serve as a mentor.