

RAC Agenda Thu. Sep 25, 2017

1-2pm

Rasmuson Room 604

Online access: <https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/159606077>

Participants: Andrew Mahoney, Melissa Good, Srijan Aggarwal (online*), Andres Lopez, Jeff Benowitz, Robert Rember, Larry Duffy, Wendy Croskrey, Anna Liljedahl (in person) and, during the last 30 minutes, also Rosemary Madnick from OGCA (in person).

**The internet connectivity was not reliable, so Anna has to message the online folks via GoTo and we also communicated real-time via our shared Google Drive documents when taking notes/commenting on what was said/written.*

Agenda

1. Approve notes from past mtg.
 - a. Approved.
2. Agenda
 - a. Research Safety Options
 - b. NSF CAREER proposal workshop/training
 - c. Follow-up on action items
 - d. Visit from OGCA (1:30-2pm)

3. Research Safety Options

The President returned 1.4 million USD to UAF research to the Chancellor. Based on recommendations from the Research Program Group (RPG), the Chancellor decided to invest 125k in safety. Based on recommendations from the RPG, the Chancellor decided to let each unit, i.e. director/dean, decide how to invest the funds and the Chancellor is distributing the money based on ICR amounts coming from each unit. The RAC can support effective investment by providing suggestions/options/ideas to the RPG by listing items that the directors could decide to invest in. The list could also serve as conversation starter if the director decides to converse with his/her researchers on how to invest the safety funds. RAC is in a good position to identify areas of investments that several units can benefit from, i.e. invest in, together. → VCR Larry asked Anna will present RAC's suggestions on the upcoming RPG meeting in early October.

→ We edited the document during our mtg (see separate document <https://docs.google.com/document/d/13q1-Sdk-J7hLUQsYK9m9DE14i9vxUeo2QmFUpXMmyI8/edit>).

→ Anna will send a word doc via email of the final version so that RAC can approve the copy to be presented and given to the VRC and the RPG members.

→ RAC to approve the Research Safety Suggestions by Monday October 2nd.

4. NSF CAREER

Nathan George contacted RAC in an email on Sep 25:

“VCR Hinzman has committed to another NSF CAREER training during the 2017-2018 academic year, and we need to identify a date to put this training on! We had discussed Nov. or Jan. with last year's committee, and most had leaned towards a Nov. date. If you could provide guidance on the best date, we

need to start arranging space and coordinating with our external consultant to deliver this year's training."

→ The RAC team welcomed the opportunity and determined that January is too late, especially for SFOS faculty, and that November is a good time. Anna replied with RAC's recommendation to Nathan via email on the afternoon of the 25th.

5. Follow-up on action items

Wendy contacted her Dean, Todd Sherman, regarding connecting CLA with other research institutes to make the researchers at UAF aware of the resources that CLA faculty can provide. Todd responded with several questions and Anna handed the conversation (over email) over to VCR Larry to respond.

6. OGCA visit

Rosemary Madnick, the executive director of UAF's Office of Grants and Contracts Administration (OGCA), visited with us for the last 30 minutes. Her goal with the visit was how to leverage/merge resources and ongoing activities by OGCA and Faculty Senate/RAC to help support research and extramural funding at UAF. The discussion focused on how OGCA can help UAF researchers in their collaborations with industry (Master Agreements, "Fixed price contracts"), which also included the visibility (internally and externally) of non-federally/state funded successes (UAF experts guide, UAF resources, and proposal writing documents). Another topic that was listed on the agenda by RAC with OGCA was how to support new grant writers, but the topic was left for a future meeting.

a) Master agreements

Rosemary described Master Agreements (MA) as longer-term agreements (can be up to a ~5 yr period) that are put in place between UAF and Industry partners/ companies (Hillcorp for example). The master agreement streamlines the contractual language between UAF and the Industry partner and forms the foundation for new projects, i.e. contracts, so that researchers can focus on what the specific deliverables and budget for a specific project (to form the actual contract for a particular project).

Anna: How do I as a researcher initiate a Master Agreement?

Rosemary: If a researcher is interested in pursuing a MA they should contact Rosemary or anyone in OGCA. OGCA also has resources on their website regarding MAs and the MAs currently in place with UAF. The researcher contacts OGCA/Rosemary with preliminary info about industry partner including business/finance/contract POC. OGCA/Rosemary communicates with the industry partner. The process can take up to 6 months depending on the complexity of the agreement. If the faculty wants a project started sooner, then OGCA can set up another mechanism that is not a Master Agreement. Master Agreement is for a long-term collaboration, not necessary for a first-time projects.

b) Fixed price contracts

Andy has had issues with "fixed price contracts". If you have money left over after the end of the contract, the industry may not care to get the money back. Awkward as a researcher to ask the industry to approve a no-cost extension when the company "don't care".

→ Rosemary suggested Andy contact her with specifics for his case. The details and solution can be used to revise future contracts templates in order to address any upcoming cases like this.

c) Successes

Jeff: It is easy to find (online at the UAF webpage) about UAF's faculty successes in individual federal and state grants. How can success with industry become visible in the statistic that UAF prepares? This can become a problem during promotion.

Rosemary: I agree there needs to be some cross/merging between the two. OGCA is partnering with UAF's PAIR to improve quality and organization of data on research funding trends/sources. OGCA is in the process of taking a deep dive with sponsors that fund UAF. For example, Looking at DOI and all of the departments and division below such as NPS, BLM, etc. We were curious to see both overall successes with DOI but also NPS specifically to help inform the VCR and UAF leadership about trends. Our system, Banner, it is difficult to pull data easily so data must be pulled and re-worked to get what is needed from the system. The information will help us at UAF to figure out what our next funding plan should be. Rosemary will share the OGCA/PAIR report that was submitted to Larry. (see separate document "OGCA PAIR 2017 Strategy and Planning.pdf")

d) Experts database & UAF Resources

Jeff: Marketing and communication at UAF is created an "Expert Guide". It is currently focused on individuals. The resource also needs to include lab resources (not just individuals).

Rosemary: There is an ongoing effort by the Statewide Research Council to inventory all lab research groups/resources/facilities at UAF, UAA and UAS.

Rob: Also include Recharge Centers into the "Experts Guide"

→ Rosemary will bringing this issue to the Statewide Research Council on Oct 2, the next meeting date.

e) Proposal writing documents

Andres: Create and make available documents for NSF's required Facilities and Equipment that is already written for each lab/resource at UAF such as one for the Geochronolgy lab, the INE's stable isotope recharge center etc.

→ Ask the VCR to request and compile such documents from each lab/recharge center and for the VCR to make them available to UAF researchers on the VCR's website (Anna)

7. Meeting adjourned.