

Research Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes for Friday, December 16, 10:45-11:45

Members present: Srijan Aggarwal, Jamie Clark (co-chair), Larry Duffy, Andrew Mahoney, Steven Seefeldt, Gordon Williams (co-chair)

GW called the meeting to order at 10:49 am.

1. Old Business

- a. Approve minutes from November 18

Minutes were approved as submitted.

- b. Update on mentoring/orientation discussion

JC and GW provided follow up on some of the discussion items from the previous meeting. First, that another Faculty Senate committee (the FDAI committee) has also been specifically addressing mentoring, even having some of the same conversations that we were (i.e., should it be added to workloads, etc). As such, the RAC co-chairs sought approval from the members to send a letter to the FDAI committee offering our support and input should it be useful.

A formalized proposal for research-based orientation is still in the planning stages; the committee discussed having such an event as a “research fair” in which different offices (and permitting, IRB, URSA, etc) have tables at which researchers can obtain information. This format would allow more flexibility than a series of presentations which may not be equally relevant to all researchers.

- c. Srijan’s proposal on grant proposal workshop (NSF CAREER, etc)

SA’s proposal for a NSF CAREER grant specific workshop was discussed. He presented information on the # of awards in the UA system vs. other similar universities. The group discussed how this workshop could be structured, and the issues relating to the fact that one has to be tenure track or “tenure-track equivalent” to apply. SA said that equivalency is defined by the relevant Deans/Directors, so more research faculty may be eligible to apply than are currently aware. SA, LD, and GW will work on pulling together an official proposal for the Jan meeting.

2. New Business

- a. Faculty Development Funding (i.e., travel, research seed money, etc)- where does UAF stand relative to its peer institutions?

The group discussed the availability (or lack thereof) of faculty development funding (travel, seed money, etc) within the various units at UAF (and for various types of faculty, including tenure-track and research faculty). GW pulled together a list of peer institutions, and the committee will research the types of faculty development funding available at these before the Jan meeting, so that the committee can begin to get an idea of where UAF stands, comparatively speaking.

b. Discussion of research.uaf.edu web site

The research.uaf.edu website was discussed. The VCR's office has recently added new sections to this website, including "Research Process" and "Write a Proposal", but the material included seems somewhat random (the first entry on the Research Process page is about the Animal Resources Center) and it is not as helpful as it could be; for instance, it provides no information on who to contact for information/help about various aspects of the research/proposal writing process. The "Experts" section on the site seems to be out of date and it is unclear what function it is meant to serve. More broadly, the website seems to be addressed to a number of different constituencies, which could be more clearly delineated (i.e., separate tabs for each audience?). The committee was tasked with exploring this website before the Jan meeting and pulling together a list of questions/info they would find helpful on such a site.

The meeting was adjourned by GW at 11:52.