

**Research Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes for Friday, November 18, 10:45-11:45**

Members Present: Srijan Aggarwal, Jamie Clark (co-chair), Wendy Croskrey, Larry Duffy, Anna Liljedahl, Steven Seefeldt, Derek Sikes, Gordon Williams (co-chair)

GW called the meeting to order at 10:45 am.

1. Old Business

- a. Approve minutes from October 21

Minutes were approved as submitted.

2. New Business

- a. Updates/discussion re: the three focus areas we identified at the last meeting
 - i. Mentoring
 - ii. Orientation
 - iii. Grant proposal workshops (esp NSF EPSCOR)

Orientation:

- JC presented ideas for a research-focused orientation for new faculty members at the university. GW pointed out that any such orientation should also be advertised to current faculty members, who may not be aware of the opportunities and resources available to them.
- AL said that the VCR's RPG group has also been talking about this issue, and that they are working with OGCA to develop a 2? hr orientation that will be offered multiple times of year.
- Proposal for orientation being developed does not overlap with the OCGA orientation, as focus is considerably wider—introductions from various groups on campus (VCR/OGCA/OPD/URSA/IRB office, Land permitting, etc.)
- RAC members think having this once a year in late August would be ideal
- Moving forward, will work on developing a more formalized proposal- who to present to? AL proposes that the Deans and Directors group (which includes the VCR) would probably be a target audience.

Mentoring:

- The group had a lot of discussion about how to incentive mentoring. AL mentioned that this is particularly relevant for faculty who are helping others with grant proposals—how can/should they get credit? A system to have some of the overhead go to them, even if their name isn't on the proposal?

- If mentoring were included in unit criteria, would that help? Where would it go? Service? Pointed out that most faculty are already overloaded with service, so unclear that this would actually help.
- In discussing ways to incentive mentoring, the issue of travel money for conferences came up; in many units, this funding is not available, which actually hinders research productivity because conferences serve as a valuable opportunity for networking and building name recognition. Not all funding organizations allow researchers to write in travel money, and not all disciplines have access to/need grants that could include travel. Identified as an area that the committee should look into and address further in the next meeting.

Building networks/improving proposal success:

- While not specifically tied to orientation or mentoring, the group also discussed ways of improving communication between researchers/improving proposal success. AL talked about IARC's research coffee hours as an idea that could be taken up by other units, although it was pointed out that these may only be helpful when some ties exist in terms of the research focus/questions (would be difficult in CLA or CNSM, for instance, where so many different disciplines are represented).
- SS highlighted the utility of hiring professional editors to help with grant writing. LD talked about how this has been done in the past, but is very costly. In the current budget climate, is this likely to be an option? The group realized this was also part of a bigger issue re: restructuring how the grant process happens at UAF and the general culture re: research.

The group did not have time to address SA's proposal for mentoring for NSF CAREER grants; this will be dealt with in the December meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:47 am.