

**Research Advisory Committee**  
**Meeting Minutes for Friday, September 16, 10:45-11:45 am**

**Members Present:**

Srijan Aggarwal, Larry Duffy, Javier Fochesatto, Derek Sikes, Jamie Clark (co-chair) and Gordon Williams (co-chair)

**1) Old Business:**

- a) Approval of minutes from 08/26

The minutes for 8/26/16 were approved as submitted.

- b) Research Report—determine what, if any, action the committee will take

After some discussion of the Research Report from FY 2015 (provided by Orion Lawler at the 8/26 meeting), the committee voted against generating a new version of the same report. Instead, it was decided that the co-chairs would draft comments on that research review and circulate them for approval by the committee. For instance, the committee felt that FY 15 report was not sufficiently broad in its definition of research; although the document was called a “research review”, it only considered grant dollars vs. faculty FTEs. After committee-wide approval, these comments will be submitted to Orion Lawler.

**2) New Business:**

- a. Discussion of Research Administration Strategic Pathways report
  - i. Formulate response of RAC

The committee had a lengthy conversation about the Research Administration Strategic Pathways report. Several members commented on the lack of detail in the reports (particularly as regards the financial impact of the various options and how staffing levels would be impacted, both at UAF and at the other campuses), which makes formulating an official response difficult. Comments will be compiled into a brief statement written by the co-chairs and circulated to the committee by approval. Upon approval, this statement will be submitted to Jim Johnsen, Orion Lawler, and Larry Hinzman.

- b. Discussion of new Research Land Permitting process

After a brief discussion, the committee members did not feel that they have enough experience with the process to comment effectively on the revised process for obtaining Land Permits. As such, it was decided that the co-chairs would reach out to Faye Gallant to ask if we could circulate the documents to our respective constituencies and compile them as part of the next RAC meeting.

c. Discussion of possible agenda items for the RAC for AY 16-17.

The committee discussed a variety of options for RAC to take on during this academic year. Much of the discussion revolved around ways the university might be able to help faculty (and grad students) be more successful in the grant-proposal writing process. For instance, by supporting workshops for junior scholars interested in applying for NSF CAREER grants, or supporting/developing a system by which faculty could have grants reviewed in house prior to submission (this seems to exist to some extent in certain units but not all of them). The role of the RAC would be to do research on how other universities have implemented these types of things and to make a pitch to the VCRs office for funding for these activities. Other options included working with the legislative outreach office to inform them about the variety of research that happens at UAF, and looking into options for International student tuition/credit load (something that impacts grant budgets). The co-chairs asked the membership to start doing research on some of these issues, with a goal of formulating a more directed plan at the October meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 11:45 am.