

RAC Notes

Mon. Feb 19, 2018

11am-12pm, IARC Room 417

Participants: Andy Seitz (UA Research Council), Larry Duffy, Andrew Gray (OGCA), Srijan Aggarwal, Anna Liljedahl (in person), Jeff Benowitz (on-line).

## NOTES

### 1. Approve Notes from Dec 11 & Jan 22 by Anna

Moved to next meeting as we had few voting members attending.

### 2. RPG update by Anna

- The VCR appreciated the Letter from RAC supporting the Center for Global Climate Change Student Competition.
- Research Initiatives proposal to the VCR from RAC was submitted on Friday Feb 16.
- On Tue Feb 13 the RPG discussed the new NSF reporting requirements for harassment where the university now has to notify NSF if there is a finding of harassment by a PI. The VCR said during the RPG meeting that he would contact NSF to ask for clarifications.
- At RPG, the UAF communication office presented their new UAF Communication Strategy.
- Rob and Anna talked about Research Faculty Promotion issues with the RPG

### 3. Research Council update by Andy Seitz

- The UA Research Council was formed in 2017. The UA President appointed Andy as the UAF Faculty representative in mid-November, which resulted in Andy missing the first meetings. Andy was also out of town on the two following meetings. VCR Larry Hinzman is the Co-Chair and the committee answers to the UA Summit Team. The committee includes one faculty member from UAS (Brian Buma) and UAA (Cheryl Wilga) and UAF. The other committee members are:
  - Miles Baker, Assoc. Vice President, Government Relations, SW
  - Myron Dosch, Chief Financial Officer, UA
  - Susan Henrichs, Provost, UAF
  - Larry Hinzman, Vice Chancellor Research, UAF (chair)
  - Rosemary Madnick, Executive Director, OGCA, UAF
  - Paula Martin, Vice Provost Research, UAS
  - Anupma Prakash, Director, EPSCoR
  - Helena Wisniewski, Vice Provost Research, UAA
  - Cheryl Wilga, UAA Faculty Representative
  - Andy Seitz, UAF Faculty Representative
  - Brian Buma, UAS Faculty Representative
  - Andy Seitz, UAF Faculty Representative

- The goals of the committee are to:
  - Provide strategic vision and investment priorities for research
  - Develop an implementation plan relevant to Strategic Pathways Phase 1 goals for grants and contracts/research administration
  - Highlight system wide research expertise and synthesize key accomplishments for communicating to external constituents.
  - Develop UA's research expertise to meet Alaska's research needs
- RAC would like there to be an alternate if Andy are not able to make the Research Council meetings as RAC members emphasized the importance of having a faculty present. The UA President decided who was to serve as Faculty representative. RAC appreciate Andy's willingness to serve and his contribution. RAC would like to see the Faculty Senate involvement next time a Faculty is appointed to the Research Council.

#### **4. Free field safety classes March 21-27 by Anna**

- The VCR office is sponsoring one week of field safety trainings in late March that are organized by UAF DRAW. RAC emphasized the value of post-course evaluations and especially in electronic format. RAC would like to see the course roster repeated at regular intervals and expanded to also include for example boat safety, bear safety and gun safety.

#### **5. Cross-campus study with GAAC & RAC: Who can serve on Graduate Committees and as Chairs? By Anna**

- Research Faculty have had difficulty (verbally) finding academic departments that allow Research Faculty to serve as major advisors to student's who are funded on grants that the Research Faculty are leading. This prompted requesting the Deans and departments to share their written policies on committee composition and committee appointment procedures. Anna and GAAC chair Sean Topkok has contacted all the Deans at UAF. About five departments have shared their written policies to date.
- RAC discussed including some general basic requirements for Research Faculty to Chair a graduate student, like having secured x yrs of funding for the student on a research award, the establishment of a back-up plan if a (non-tenure track, tenure-track or tenured) chair is leaving, and a departmental vote on the composition of the committee etc.

#### **6. Letter to Chancellor and VCR: Promotion for Research Faculty by Anna**

- RAC noted that the issue may extends outside the Research Faculty, like the extension faculty in CFOS, SNRE. Andy S. offered to help find an extension faculty to contribute to the potential RAC-led letter. The letter is still in a rough draft format.

#### **7. RAC Bylaws update by Anna**

- Moved to next meeting due to low attendance of voting RAC members.

#### **8. Other by Andrew Gray**

- OGCA: Feedback on F&A feedback are still welcomed.
- Faculty orientation in progress.

- Faculty Survey, please do if you are invited.
- RAC suggested we include the OGCA update as a standing item on future RAC agendas, just like the RPG and Research Council updates.

**9. Meeting adjourned.**