

# Research Advisory Committee

## 2011-03-31 Meeting Minutes

Voting members present: Orion Lawlor, Sarah Hardy, Kris Hundertmark, Margaret Darrow, Peter Webley

Not present: Tom Weingartner, Roger Hansen, Anita Hartmann, Bernard Coakley

Ex Officio: Mark Myers      Guest: Perry Barboza

First item of business was to welcome our new Vice Chancellor for Research (VCR) and ex officio RAC member, Mark Myers. VCR Myers is the head of Center for Research Services (CRS), which includes a number of research-relevant pieces:

- Office of Sponsored Programs (OSP), which approves outgoing grant proposals after your institute's proposal office is done with them.
- Office of Intellectual Property and Commercialization (OIPC), the new technology, copyright, and patents office headed by Dan White.
- A communications office, which among other duties organizes UAF Campus Research Day (May 5, 2011) along with the Provost.
- Office of Research Integrity (ORI), which oversees UAF's Institutional Review Board (IRB) for research involving human subjects, Institutional Biosafety Committee (IBC) for research involving recombinant DNA and dangerous toxins, and Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) for research involving vertebrate animals.

VCR Myers' main goals in the coming months include:

- Assemble a Strategic Research Plan, to help explain the societal relevance and consequences of UAF research. This has to dovetail with Dan Julius' statewide plan, and UAF's nationally recognized strengths: remote sensing, disaster monitoring, native communities, biology, etc.
- Coordinate major research instrumentation grant proposals, in particular finding an open and transparent way to allocate the VCR's 1% of Indirect Cost Recovery (ICR, which shows up on our grants as F&A), which is typically used as matching funds for instrumentation proposals. This ties in with the recent [ICR Distribution Review Committee's findings](#).
- Build an integrated data portal and archive, using ARSC's storage as a backend, to showcase and disseminate UAF research. In particular, new NSF grants require a data management plan section, which this resource could contribute to.

Perry Barboza discussed several shortcomings in the current organization of the UAF Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC). In particular, today the three roles of Attending Veterinarian, IACUC representative, and director of the office of research integrity are currently all filled by the same person.

Perry's concerns largely match those identified during consultant Dorcas O'Rourke's December 2010 on-site review. The VCR has begun adding staff to the veterinary office, and is aware of the issues.

Finally, we discussed the future of post-DoD ARSC, and UAF computing more generally. There are lots of little department and lab clusters tucked into closets, and some sort of UAF-wide shared resource could increase capacity and lower costs, especially when the peak capacity needed is much less than the average (the "suburbs" vs "timeshare" model). However, many of these small clusters exist to fill a specialized niche that would not centralize well, such as running department-specific software or hardware, or satisfying high-performance visualization tasks such as GIS. Another key component ARSC has historically provided is system administration and high performance computing expertise. In recognition of this university-wide service, the Chancellor has agreed to provide several million in startup funds for the reborn ARSC as a "trickle contract." The long term funding model is less clear; a pay-for-service model would discourage both small requests, and the computational needs of less lucrative fields such as anthropology or archaeology.