

RAC Meeting Minutes

2014-11-19

Present: Orion Lawlor, Kris Hundertmark, Georgina Gibson, Anna Berge, Andrew Mahoney, Andrew McDonnell, Jon Dehn, Joanne Healy

Guest: AVCR Dan White

Actions:

[Blue book](#) policy and regulation update: we have now located all references to faculty with special academic rank. There is a recurring issue where the campuswide committee emphasizes teaching, and penalizes faculty without teaching results, even for research faculty whose workload includes no or very little teaching. A potential new category of service could be “business service”, in starting up local businesses.

[Facilities and Administrative \(F&A\)](#) money comes in with most externally funded grants, and we want to make sure this money comes back and improves UAF research effectively. For example, tools for understanding budgets would be very useful for project management, and even helpful for explaining the impact of research F&A on the university. GI has a monthly report tool on grant expenditure; INE spent money on a similar tool for projecting budget from Banner data, now taken on by GINA, and being commercialized by OIPC.

Shared services have been proposed as a means to deal with budget cuts: for example, rather than maintaining a separate business office, a small unit might contract with the GI business office. One issue with shared services is distance, both distance between buildings, and conceptual distance with different grant types in different disciplines. Another worry is more use of the GI proposal office will result in worse service for existing GI investigators, especially at crunch time such as when big Arctic Resource Office proposals are due. Office of Sponsored Programs (OSP), led by Andrew Grey, was once part of the VCR's office, is in charge of approving outgoing grants & contracts. Office of Grants & Contract Administration (OGCA), now led by Rosie, handles the incoming dollars and administration, and has recently been reorganized to include OSP.

AVCR White will help RAC collect more information about where our F&A dollars are going, and evaluate and improve the effectiveness of the services researchers receive in return.