

Research Council 2011-12 Annual Report

Membership

Ricardo Letelier, Chair '13	Oceanic & Atmospheric Sciences
Sourabh Apte '12	Mechanical, Industrial & Manufacturing Engineering
Siva Kolluri '12	Environmental & Molecular Toxicology
Barb Lachenbruch '12	Wood Science & Engineering
Craig Marcus (v. Mockler) '12	Environmental & Molecular Toxicology
Jennifer McKay '12	Oceanic & Atmospheric Sciences Business
Ping Hsieh '13	Business
Laurel Kristick '13	OSU Libraries
Taifo Mahmud (v. Leid) '13	Pharmacy
Mahfuz Sarker '13	Veterinary Medicine
Viktor Bovbjerg '14	Public Health
Hillary Egna '14	Aquaculture Collaborative Research Support Program
Andrew Klein '14	Nuclear Engineering & Radiation Health Physics
Mei-Ching Lien '14	Psychology
Darlene Russ-Eft '14	Education

Ex-Officio: Research Office – Rick Spinrad/Rich Holdren

Executive Committee Liaison: Kevin Gable

Liaison to Research Office: Debbie Delmore

The Research Council is a standing committee of the OSU Faculty Senate. One of its main functions during this academic year remained the evaluation of proposals submitted by the OSU faculty to the Research Equipment Reserve Fund (RERF) and General Research Fund (GRF). In addition, the Research Council provided recommendations on pre-proposals and letters of intent for limited submission funding opportunities. Finally, the Research Council is tasked with reviewing and making recommendations to the Vice President for Research on proposals for Centers and Institutes.

Apart from these tasks, this past year the Research Council took an active role in identifying and transmitting to the University's administration concerns from the academic community regarding the state of the university's research infrastructure and administrative support. To this end the Research Council invited the Vice President for Finance and Administration, Mark McCambridge, to share his office's assessment on the present state of institutional support and investment on the university's research mission. The outcome of this effort was a letter to the Vice President for Research, Rick Spinrad, outlining what the Research Council perceives as critical challenges faced by our University on matters related to the institutional research support. The letter was shared with the Faculty Senate Executive Committee for approval.

A summary of the activities of the Research Council for academic year 2011-12 is given below:

Proposal Review

This past academic year, the Research Council evaluated 44 General Research Fund (GRF) and 51 Research Equipment Reserved Fund (RERF) proposals. The GRF program was evaluated in two panels (December 2011 and March 2012). RERF proposals were also reviewed in two panels (January 2012 and May 2012). In addition, the Research Council evaluated a proposal from the College of Education for the creation of a Center of Research on Lifelong STEM education. As part of this process, the Research Council invited the Dean of the College of Education, Larry Flick, to discuss the proposal with us prior to submitting formal feedback to the Research Office. Finally, the Research Council reviewed letters of intent submitted in response to calls from the National Science Foundation to submit institutional proposals for five Sustainable Energy Pathways (SEP), three Sustainability Research Networks (SRN), eight Major Research Infrastructure (MRI), and eight Partnerships for International Research and Education (PIRE).

During the year we considered and addressed several issues related our mission and working procedures:

1. We re-evaluated the role of the Research Council as an advisory body to the University's Research Office. While in the recent past this council had taken a passive role, providing advice only when requested and mainly through the review of proposals, we debated the council's role as a communication conduit between researchers and the Research Office as well as our mission to ensure the broad institutional support to the research endeavor. As a result, we decided that this committee needs to play a proactive advisory role as advocates for the needs of the research community we represent. Modifications to the standing rules were outlined to better reflect the committee's mission.
2. We discussed to what extent this council should interface/interact with other campus committees that play a critical role in the policies regulating research activities (primarily the compliance committees such as; Biosafety, Chemical, Radiation, Health and Safety, Institutional Review Board, Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee, Conflict of Interest, Scientific Diving, Scientific Boating). Our conclusion was that the members of this council should be knowledgeable regarding the mission and procedures of these committees as well as the challenges they face. A suggestion was made that meeting with chairs of these committees should be one of the goals of this council during 2012-2013.
3. Recognizing the importance and breadth of OSU's research facilities located outside our Corvallis campus, the Research Office suggested we consider increasing the council's membership from 15 to 16 members in order to include representation from researchers and research facilities located off campus. After discussion, the council approved this suggestion unanimously and the council's standing rules are being modified to reflect this change.
4. As in previous years, we discussed extensively the efficiency in our GRF and RERF review and funding selection process. Although we recognize that the review process requires a significant time commitment from each one of the committee members, we were unable to identify changes that would significantly improve the efficiency of the evaluation process. Also, because individual reviewers evaluate a subset of the proposals, we decided to discuss the ranking of proposals according to the reviewers' score as well as reviewers' rankings.

The Research Council expresses its gratitude to Rich Holdren and Debbie Delmore for their efforts in making the review process go smoothly.



Ricardo M Letelier

Research Council Proposed Update on Standing Rules

Current Standing Rules

The Research Council establishes policies for matters pertaining to sponsored research activities. It recommends priorities for distribution of various internal funding programs and for external solicitations that require limited submissions from the institution. The Research Council also reviews proposals for Centers, Institutes, and Research Programs (CIP), and is advisory to the Vice President for Research on matters related to CIP. The Council consists of fifteen Faculty members, preferably at least one from each college. The Administrator of the Research Office, or designee, shall be a non-voting, ex-officio member of the Council. The Chair shall be a Faculty member with immediate prior experience on the Council, appointed annually by the Faculty Senate Executive Committee. The membership of the Research Council will adhere to the comprehensive conflict of interest policy of the Research Council.

(04/01, 05/08)

Proposed Update of Standing Rules

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Description of proposed changes:

1. Removal of reference to Research Programs to reflect the fact that such Programs are not part of the OSU research structure anymore.
2. Replace "is advisory to the Vice President for Research on matters related to CIP" by "is advisory to the Vice President for Research on matters related to Institutional Research." This change is required to reflect the broad advisory role the council has on matters of institutional research.
3. Increasing the membership of this council from 15 to 16 in order to include representation from research units and facilities located outside Benton County. This representation shall consist of at least one faculty member.