

**Faculty Research Council Meeting Minutes**  
**December 5 2024, 3:00 P.M. via Zoom only**

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**Faculty Research Council Agenda**

**December 5, 2024**

1. RCA Updates
2. NSF and ND EPSCoR Changes
3. Tribal College Partnerships
4. Strategic Priorities Work Team: R1 priority
  - a. Partnering with Academic Affairs on post-tenure evaluation support

**Summary:**

the office's efforts to enhance NSF competitiveness, and the anticipated changes in the National Institutes of Health (NIH). Also highlighted the need for center-level initiatives, potential collaborations with tribal colleges, and the importance of industry partnerships. The team also discussed the need for faculty development, the potential for low-hanging fruit in areas like NSF, NIH, and USDA, and the importance of incentives and recognition for industry partnerships.

**1. RCA Updates**

- NSF Competitiveness: How to increase submission from NDSU faculty  
Coordinated effort between RCA and Academic Affairs to help facilitate the process - Carrie Anne Platt, Colleen, and Heidi Grunwald meeting to discuss.  
Considering CV collection exercise to collect current CVs of NDSU faculty since we do not have an effective analytics tool  
Pilot support for faculty in Spring 2025?  
Promotion and Tenure Evaluation (PTE) on faculty minds across campus. PTE procedures vary amongst the Colleges  
BHAGS action items
- Two new specific listservs will be created to aid in assisting faculty in receiving information regarding funding opportunities relevant to NSF and NIH funding opportunities. More information to come.
- Federal updates: Webinar: NDSU/Lewis-Burke: Federal Policy and the New Administration, January 22 2025  
Noon-1pm

Christina Laridaen and Otto Katt will present via Zoom. Can register to attend at this link:

[https://ndstate.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_8kpJoWO7WqoFXU2](https://ndstate.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_8kpJoWO7WqoFXU2)

NIH update: we are expecting changes across the institute in 2025.

NSF update: hearing there may be cuts in funding to some programs; but EPSCoR targets should remain the same.

- Giving Day 2024: December 3, we had a successful fundraising event in RCA (\$11,450) with two areas of focus:
  - Undergraduate Research
  - Transformative Research Leadership Initiative

Transformative Research Leadership Program- Pilot Planning Grants- Round 2 (Center level Initiative)

Nomination Packet Deadline: January 17, 2025. Pilot planning grants will provide up to \$75,000 to build capacity for demonstrating readiness to submit competitive large, federal center-level proposals led by NDSU PIs. A planning grant consists of a series of activities that are designed to ramp up to the submission of a large, center-level project, including but not limited to networking, building and working as a team, proofs of concept, preliminary research, enhancing broader impacts, and developing and/or deepening relationships with industry partners.

A question was asked about the goal of TRLP? STEM areas are the goal for center level initiative such as NSF, NIH, COBRE, NSF Track II, or E RISE.

Success proposals for center level initiatives include research, partnerships with other institutions, and topic of workforce with industry partners. May also include commercialization/IP, and DEI components.

Ideas for consideration

## **2. NSF and ND EPSCoR updates:**

May 2023 NSF EPSCoR announced the Track I is going away (\$20M with \$4M state match) and would be replaced by two mechanisms (that do not equal as much funding overall.)

E-RISE – subject matter expertise, technical project that has scientific area of relevance including workforce in your jurisdiction. Must align with your State EPSCoR Science and Technology Plan, and include partnerships with other institutions.

No E-RISEs went in from NDSU or from the state of ND.

E-COR – Capacity building in the jurisdiction through Cores. We submitted an ECOR, NDSU is the lead along with 10 institutions, all 5 tribal colleges are included. Sheridan McNeil is the PI from the ND EPSCoR Office. We have been recommended for funding.

Faculty to consider submitting proposals for the NSF's E-RISE program, focusing on workforce development and partnerships in their jurisdiction.

Jurisdictional Asset Mapping:

Strategies/strengths/programming that are prioritized at Tribal colleges or the predominantly undergraduate institutions in ND.

Next Step: approval from EPSCoR State Steering Committee. The outcome would help everyone have a better sense of what's out there and be a resource to help build relationships with common interests.

## **3. Tribal College Partnerships**

New section in NSF PAPPG re: Tribal Nation approval:

Proposals that may impact the resources/interests of a federally recognized American Indian or Alaska Tribal Native Tribal Nations will not be awarded without prior written approval from the officials designated by the relevant tribal nations and provide appropriate documentation.

We are advising PIs that are submitting proposals to include the appropriate documentation if a Tribal college is not named. The relationship is needed at the time of submission. We all need to foster best practices for partnerships with Tribal colleges.

All five colleges are great partners, all are on the Track I, all are on the E-COR.

UND has hired Dr. David Wilson as AVP for Health Research and Chair of UND's Department of Indigenous Health. He will be working on official and formal protocols for Tribal consultation. NDSU needs to be proactive in this area as it is critical to our success as a research institution.

RCA will explore ways to socialize the new NSF tribal nation approval policy and its implications for research collaborations with tribal colleges.

#### **4. Strategic Priorities Work Team: R1 priority**

Address areas of new post tenure considerations and evaluations? How do we help faculty re-energize, pivot, move to the next level? What kind of programming and resources can we provide?

Possible presentation with RCA-Academic Affairs in Spring 2025 supporting mid-career efforts in the context of post-tenure evaluation.

There was discussion on how aspects of PTE are reviewed. How many papers/publications are patents equal to? How do we show/demonstrate that in metrics? At NDSU the VPR is not part of the PTE review process. Ways the VPR can assist is pointing faculty toward resources, help elevate conversations, and initiate dialogue on campus.

RCA will coordinate with the Deans and the Provost's office on strategic research prioritization and identifying areas for joint initiatives.