

## **NDSU Research Council Minutes**

**December 7, 2017**

### **Memorial Union – Peace Garden Room**

Call to order at 3:30 PM

**Attendance** – Svetlana Kilina, Greta Gramig, Mark Strand, Kelly Buettner-Schmidt, Xiangfa Wu, Fariz Huseynov, Kasey Maddock Carlin, Bernie Saini-Eidukat, Corina Todoran, Asif Arshid, Kelly Rusch, Sheri Anderson, Jolynne Tschetter, Val Kettner

### **Announcements**

VP Rusch announced that the new CCAST Director, Dane Skow, is interested in forming a Faculty Advisory Committee for the Center. He is looking for volunteers.

### **Old business**

M. Strand inquired about the results of the RCA Small Grant Program. S. Anderson reported that 38 seed grant applications and 9 NDSU EXPLORE Undergraduate Research Award applications were reviewed by the members of the Research Council. Eighteen seed grants and six NDSU EXPLORE grants are being awarded for a total of \$96,608 in funding.

Discussion about internal vs. external reviews followed. Internal reviews are sometimes difficult if a reviewer doesn't have the expertise. External reviews of a large number of applications like the seed program would be more difficult to organize and potentially be very expensive.

Other RCA funding opportunities include the research development travel awards, mentorship travel awards, and research resources awards. The research development travel awards have seen the most applications. No applications have been received for the mentorship travel. Some discussion took place on potentially moving that funding to the research development travel funding program if needed.

### **New business**

VP Rusch gave a brief update on the Research Foundation (RF). J. Tschetter is the Interim Executive Director. There are overlapping areas/opportunities between J. Tschetter's Business Development position with economic development and working with companies, and the RF. There was a small study done to review the RF and see how it can/does meet the needs of NDSU. The Research & Tech Park (RTP) also did a study that included overlapping areas, such as economic development and technology transfer. The RF and the RTP are both 501(c)3 entities. What remains to be determined is how NDSU moves forward with the RF and the RTP, looking to enhance their effectiveness.

VP Rusch provided clarification on the November 27<sup>th</sup> Fargo Forum article concerning royalties. Starting in November of 2014, a NDUS Task Force recommended increasing the percentage of revenue sharing of royalty payments that went to inventors to a minimum to 40%. Prior to November of 2014 the inventor amount was at a minimum of 30%. (Institutions are free to share greater than the minimum percentage.) An amendment was offered to the NDUS policy to include language that once the overall royalty revenue reached a certain threshold, the percent to the inventor would decrease, and more

would go to the institution. There were concerns raised by an Academic Affairs committee, as well as the CCF, that there wasn't a floor in the amendment. A new amendment was offered and passed in November of 2017 that the revenue share to inventors would be no less than 40%, and if the trigger is hit the share could be reduced to no less than 30%.

V. Kettner gave an update on the electronic research administration system (Novelution). The project timeline has been a bit delayed, with some of the delay having to do with PeopleSoft upgrades. A company representative will be here the week of December 11<sup>th</sup>. While not ready for a full demonstration, the representative would like to meet with a few faculty to show some initial demonstration of the system. G. Gramig, K. Maddock Carlin and B. Saini-Eidukat indicated interest in participating.

VP Rusch discussed the meetings she has been having this fall with various faculty. She has been hearing some common themes and opened the discussion up to council member's thoughts on the campus research environment. General discussion included concerns with morale, budget cut impacts, for some disciplines research costs too much (access to databases needed), concerns about allocation decisions, lack of travel support, loss of technical/administrative support and difficulties in recruiting due to lack of infrastructure and resources. It was noted that it would be helpful to find a way to bring faculty together and discuss NDSU's vision for future.

Meeting adjourned at 5:00pm.