

NDSU Research Council Minutes

January 10, 2018

Memorial Union – Peace Garden Room

Call to order at 3:30 PM

Attendance – Pamela Emanuelson, Svetlana Kilina, Greta Gramig, Mark Strand, Rajesh Kavasseri, Xiangfa Wu, Fariz Huseynov, Bernhardt Saini-Eidukat, Corina Todora, Sherri Stastny, Kelly Rusch, Sheri Anderson, Jolynne Tschetter, Val Kettner, Fred Hudson

Minutes of the December 7, 2017, meeting were approved.

Old business

In follow-up to a discussion at the December 7th meeting, VP Rusch reported that she talked to Provost Ingram about having a faculty event this spring.

New business

VP Rusch introduced Fred Hudson, the new Communications Manager in the RCA Office. Fred discussed his background and experience. Fred's role is to promote NDSU's research and creative activities. He will be working in collaboration with University Relations and with other communications professionals across campus. Ideas for research and creative activity related communications can be sent to him. A mechanism for submitting online communication ideas and suggestions is being explored.

VP Rusch indicated that for the Research Council's discussion on research infrastructure, it may be helpful to review NDSU's Strategic Vision published in 2015. Information was distributed via email prior to the meeting. Included were the Strategic Vision, Goals and Metrics, and recent progress reports. The information covers student success and learning, outreach and engagement, and research and discovery.

Council members reviewed the Strategic Vision Goals and Metrics document, focusing on the Research and Discovery section. It was noted there are 38 strategies for Research and Discovery. It was suggested that a determination should be made on what is most important and focus on them. A discussion was held on staging the strategies. Could a column be added to indicate the year that each strategy will be worked on and/or completed?

Discussion was held on streamlining processes. Faculty are spending more and more time on administrative tasks. One example is with electronic systems and how this is moving work to faculty vs. tasks that were previously done by staff. Question was raised about how do we measure impacts of the increased administrative work? VP Rusch indicated that the Education Advisory Board (EAB) has a mechanism and that it is on her list to have them do a survey here at NDSU.

A general discussion was held about the status of the Grand Challenge Initiative. Questions were raised about how this initiative fits with the College of Business. VP Rusch indicated that NDSU is not just focused on the Grand Challenges; all research at NDSU is important. The Grand Challenge Initiative has

been impacted by budget cuts, so it has slowed the process a bit. However, small amounts of funding are being provided to two initiatives.

Information on core facility equipment was distributed prior to the meeting. VP Rusch had requested “big ticket items” from the core labs so that there is a running list of equipment the campus might benefit from. She wanted to review the list to ensure these are items of need, to determine if there are other big ticket items not on the list. There is currently not a mechanism to make these purchases. Questions were asked about how equipment should be prioritized and if there is criteria for selection. The list has been provided to the Deans.

The NSF MRI program was discussed. The program has been changed, with the two tracks based on dollar value vs. equipment acquisition and equipment development.

A question was asked about F&A and whether any of that funding goes toward equipment. VP Rusch indicated that there is not currently. She does not receive any of the F&A distribution. She has a small amount of appropriated funding to help provide equipment match support. It was voiced that a sustainable model for emergency situations needs to be established. There have been experiences where travel funding has been eliminated due to equipment repairs needing the funding.

A question was asked about getting back to last semester’s discussion on a research framework. VP Rusch indicated that work will continue this semester.

C. Todora mentioned that the Graduate Student Council is having their Research Symposium on April 6. She inquired if the RCA Office could help promote the event. F. Hudson will follow-up on how RCA may be able to help with promotion.

Meeting adjourned at 5:00pm.