

## **Research Council Minutes**

**January 25, 2017**

### **Memorial Union – Hidatsa**

Call to order at 3:30 PM

**Attendance** –Svetlana Kilina, Eduardo Faundez, Bernhardt Saini-Eidukat, Mark Strand, Christy McGeorge, Kelly Buettner-Schmidt, Xiangfa Wu, Val Kettner, Jolynne Tschetter, Sheri Anderson

Minutes were approved for the December 8, 2016, meeting with one change. Eduardo Faundez was added to the attendance for the December 8<sup>th</sup> meeting.

### **Announcements**

Kelly Buettner-Schmidt has joined the Research Council as a representative from the College of Health Professions, in place of Molly Secor-Turner.

### **Old business**

a. Draft Policy 110.1

V. Kettner provided a brief overview of the draft policy. It is to align to ND Century Code and address nepotism as it relates to the family relationship(s) of PIs, Co-PIs and other personnel on proposals and awards.

Discussion took place on what “employment” decision means in first sentence of third paragraph. It was suggested that this be clarified, perhaps by using a different term?

Questions were raised as to whether the PI-CoPI relationship is nepotism. V. Kettner indicated that an informal inquiry to a North Dakota Assistant Attorney General was inconclusive as to whether these relationships created by participation in a proposal or award would or would not meet the statutory threshold.

Concerns were raised about adding another barrier to collaborations. Could the policy be limited to senior personnel and down? It was suggested that many funded projects don't truly have a single PI in charge, and that often the responsibility is shared and even rotated between research team members. It was discussed that ultimately to the sponsoring agency there is one lead PI who has responsibility for the project. An example was provided on no-cost extensions and the decision making authority of PIs versus Co-PIs.

The question was asked as to whether COI requirements will be part of the new electronic research administration system. V. Kettner indicated they have been working with the ERA consultants on what's needed for the COI module. However, it will be the last module to be implemented so the timeline is longer than other module implementations.

A question was asked as to the definition of “immediate family”. It was clarified that this is defined in NDSU Policy 110.

Since someone would have to go to the NDSU Policy Manual to find this policy information, it was suggested to also provide the information on the applicable RCA website.

Other policy suggestions included:

- At beginning of policy, include reference to SBHE policy and NDCC.
- In paragraph 4, change the wording and organization of text to make the information more clear.
- The section that includes the procedures, split Item #1 into two sections. Require the Conflict of Interest Disclosure and Administrative Review Form after an award has been made.
- Clarify that if there is a Conflict of Interest Disclosure and Administrative Review Form on file, that a new form is not needed for each award.
- Remove wording "It is optimal for family members who are co-PIs to also have a Management Plan in place for transparency purposes".

b. Bylaws

The last discussion on this item was that VP Rusch was looking for volunteers to serve on a subcommittee to develop bylaws.

RC members suggested that VP Rusch put forward a first draft of bylaws to the group. Members would like to see clarification on the role of this group.

No new business.

Meeting adjourned at 4:45pm.