

## Research Council Minutes

September 14, 2017

### Memorial Union – Peace garden

Call to order at 3:30 PM

**Attendance** –Svetlana Kilina, Mark Strand, Kelly Buettner-Schmidt, Xiangfa Wu, Val Kettner, Jolynne Tschetter, Fariz Huseynov, Greta Gramig, Xiangfa Wu, Rajesh Kavasseri, Kasey Maddock Carlin, Corina Todora

**Announcements** – There is a confidentiality statement that members sign. This will be sent out to new members by VP Rusch.

**Old business** – V. Kettner gave an update on the Electronic Research Administration & Compliance (ERAC) project. ERAC will enable electronic routing of proposals and compliance protocols, as well as provide summary overview for Chairs/Heads and Deans of unique proposal or protocol items (e.g. space needs, etc.) Novelution is working on the integration with PeopleSoft HR and Finance. Delivery of the first module, Sponsored Research, is expected in January 2018. After doing a pilot of the product the first module will launch in mid-2018. There are a total of 6 modules, and the remaining 5 are IRB, IACUC, IBC, Conflict of Interest and Effort Reporting.

#### **New business**

VPR Rusch announced that Dr. Dane Skow has been named the new Director for the Center for Computationally Assisted Science & Technology (CCAST). He will start on Oct. 30, 2017.

VPR Rusch provided an update on the Research & Technology Park (R&TP) and its strategic planning.

VPR Rusch provided an update on the Research Foundation (RF). Dale Zetocha, the first Executive Director, retired on June 30, 2017. The RF Board has retained an individual to conduct a 6 month study of the RF, to assist in the Board's evaluation of the RF. The evaluation is looking at what NDSU needs from the RF, and whether the current structure meets those needs.

VPR Rusch announced that the ND Established Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (EPSCoR) program has been reorganized by the ND University System (NDUS). Under this reorganization, the oversight of ND EPSCoR activities is under a new NDUS office, administered by NDSU. The office will be moving from Research 1 into the Research 2 building, and additional staff (Business Manager, STEM Outreach & Communications Manager) will be added.

VPR Rusch announced that searches for an Attending Veterinarian and a Communications Manager for the Research & Creative Activity office will launch soon.

S. Kilina inquired if there had been a decrease in the # of students at NDSU. VPR Rusch indicated that there is a 5% increase in the Freshman class.

VPR Rusch provided a handout on Federal Research Guidance and Funding, and provided information on the details of the NDSU Funding Landscape. Rusch pointed out the decrease in federal and state awards. Council members had questions on the impact of the # of faculty that have been lost through the Voluntary Separation Incentive Program, retirements, and transfers to other institutions. Rusch indicated that she was hearing that the # of faculty lost over the last fiscal year is comparable to standard attrition

rates. Members expressed concern on hiring plans, as some faculty and maybe some instructors will be replaced, but there is uncertainty about the current reduction of technicians. Members expressed concern of loss of research productivity.

VPR Rusch expressed the need to grow support for faculty and research infrastructure (which would include technicians, software, databases, etc.). Council members discussed concerns over the impact of the budget cuts on NDSU's ability to maintain and grow research. Rusch suggested that the Council could spend this semester compiling a white paper on "what it would take to grow the research and creative activity support infrastructure. There was a general consensus for this activity. Rusch will provide an overall charge to the Council for this study.

F. Huseynov made a statement about the impact of the Legislative budget cuts that resulted in the reduction of some subscriptions, and how that impacts the ability to attract good faculty.

VPR Rusch announced some new internal RCA "mini grant" opportunities to provide some baseline support to faculty. RCA has released RFPs for \$160,000 for these opportunities. There is a small grant program and mentorship travel awards. The small grant program includes seed funding and funds for research support services.

S. Kilina inquired about the current situation in Dunbar Hall, and the relocation of some Chemistry faculty labs into Research 2. VPR Rusch explained the Fire Marshall requirements for the pyrophorics, and indicated that the relocation to Research 2 is not a long term solution, but brings NDSU into compliance with the Fire Marshall. There was some discussion about current space needs on campus, bond financing and the future of space on campus, including the current Sudro expansion (which is self-funded).

Meeting adjourned at 5:00pm.