Office of the Vice Chancellor for Research
P.O. Box 757270, Fairbanks, Alaska 99775-7270

Meeting Notes
Research Council
Monday, May 20, 2019
Butro 204, 2:30 – 4:00 p.m.

To Dial in: 1-866-832-7806, PIN: 1827406

1. Safety Minute
   a. Summer field safety training at UAF went off well. Remember the new alcohol field policy at UAF, and is something to keep in mind.

2. Update on Grants and Contracts Prioritization Plan FY19 (Madnick)
   a. Met with Anchorage and Juneau for their yearly prioritization plan. They sent to the group a unified business model. The rest of the group has prioritization plan for FY20. Met with statewide records and talked about retention and destruction schedule. There is a lot of overlap among the campuses. Beginning July 1, 2021. Will continue with the updates as they move into the new fiscal year.

3. Report on Common Metrics (Madnick)
   a. Gwen is bringing this up to IR Council and will be invited to the RC. Tentatively set a date by June when we meet again. Wanted a starting point, so when it was reviewed, it would be added/changed by the group. George will be providing Rosie feedback on the Common Metrics table.

4. Snowball metrics (Madnick)
   a. European Unions started Snowball Metrics and the US has started adopting these metrics, which streamlines a lot of consistent metrics. The question is, do we want to use the same metrics that they are using? Making sure that ultimately we are collecting data in the same way – standardizing research metrics and indicators. Process metrics, computer science, was popular 8 years ago. There is a system that the Europeans used – Snowball Metrics
Exchange. We do not have the market share. UA is the premier Arctic Research institution. This is measured in different ways. Because there are a lot of US institutions that are starting to adopt this system. There are things that we are not collecting now, but should be setting ourselves up for the future. What do we need to do to accomplish this in the future? How should we proceed? Rosie would like to wait until Gwen responds and then set up an ad hoc committee.

**ACTION:** Rosie will get feedback from Gwen and report back to the Council. George and Rosie will meet and report back to RC in June.

5. **Federal Update (Bryant)**
   a. Many bills are marked up in subcommittee and have been moved to the large committee. House and Senate getting together to avoid another government shutdown based on some policy differences. There is a debt ceiling that needs to be addressed. This is the last 2 years of sequestration, would provide a lot more clarity with any appropriations cuts. This week is energy and water for markup in full committee. Congress is most likely to break for 1 week, but may break for 2. The senate has not yet set up a markup schedule, but may start scheduling after Memorial Day. We will start seeing some clarity on these things moving forward. A budget cap agreement needs to be made.

6. **Juneau update (Baker)**
   a. The session wrapped up on Wednesday without full resolution on the budget and crime package. Those are really the two issues, but related to the budget is the size of the PFD and the governors desire to get the legislature to acknowledge they should not be forward funding K12. He called a special session on Wednesday to address the PFD, capitol and crime budget. They took the weekend off and are just getting started today. The crime package was already in a committee. They will vote on it tomorrow. The House finance committee did a hearing – the gov has introduced a standalone education funding bill that repeals last year’s funding. The would forward fund the budget to avoid giving pink slips to teachers. They have presented a bill to repeal last year’s funding. Could be done in the next couple of weeks, maybe sooner. The Capital budget – we ended up with a $5M cut from last year and a proposal to make UA a single accredited institution, and 2 separate appropriations. The separate appropriations does not change how we are structured, but
it does cause us to go to OMB to move money back and forth. There is still the chance of a larger cut once it gets to the governor’s desk. They have been very quiet about their intention. We have $10 M in deferred maintenance, which will likely stay. There is a chance that we may see some money in the Capital budget (US Array).

b. Senator Hoffman – Approach UA late in the process to do an ANCEP type thing for educators to get more Alaskans interested in the education profession. Dr. Johnsen met with Steve Atwater and came up with a 2-year plan to put more money into the Educator Rising program. In an environment where we are getting decremented, this program would just mean being decremented less.

c. George is questioning whether his department should continue forward with a contingency plan in case there are pink slips sent out in 2 weeks. This is a bit premature at this time.

7. Research Security (Bryant/Kamberov)

a. Register in the FAR. This is a very bipartisan issue. Chinese nationals were touring at a NASA facility. Is UAA ending its relationship with the Confucius Institute? Will there be a new relationship? It is a Foundation. They were here a month ago, but not sure of the outcome. The current contract runs through January. George will check on the status of the renewal.

b. There are a lot of Chinese nationals that are green card holders, which makes them US citizens, which allows them access to sensitive information. Some have been green card holders for 10-15 years and have not gotten around to applying for citizenship. There are other countries that are also designated that we need to be aware of.

ACTION: Add Research Security to the next meeting as a standing topic.

8. Intellectual Property update (Layer)

a. Intellectual property disclosures is one of the goals of the Board. Alaska Workforce Development – Goal of 21 and had 35 disclosures. We are doing very well with intellectual property disclosures. Gwen will be compiling the final numbers this summer. We are above 35 this year.

b. Development standpoint – John – Did have a great milestone recently – The interdisciplinary disciplines – starting to organize and have secured an academic
partnership announcing this week that uses AI and ML in their business (AI and Data science lab). It is College of Engineering and Computer Sciences taking the lead. UAF has been consulted as well. Kenrick and George have been working on this. In the process of aggregating the team.

c. IP – Commercializing IP we generate – see if there is any commercial potential. There are less than 5 patents at this point, trying to find partners. Connecting research faculty with industry peers to share ideas. George - There are some standard metrics, which sort of indicate how successful the approach is. RISER4. Trying to get a royalty agreement.

9. National Academies of Science, Engineering, and Medicine (NASEM) UAF Town Hall Meetings Debrief (Layer)

a. Town Hall: Integrating Arts, Humanities and STEM in Higher Education

i. Marybeth Leigh took the lead – Anupma – went really well. Had a couple of pre-Town Hall meetings. During the TH there were discussions on how to start at an individual level all the way up to a systemic level. Marybeth and Anupma will continue to meet over the summer. A lot of graduate level traction. This may form a broad-based platform if we need to start consolidating.

ii. George organized the meeting at UAA – There were some interesting tools and several of their philosophers had a lot of interesting things to say.

b. Town Hall: Sexual Harassment of Women in Academic Sciences, Engineering and Medicine

i. George – people were asking questions directly. Our Title IX officer pointed out that the people who really needed to come, didn’t come. Rosie – Did attend the TH meeting – had been working very closely with our Title IX program – making sure we are closely aligned with that. Sessions were very informative and well timed. George – Reporting from the government is becoming more demanding, but the requirements are not uniform.

ii. Frazier Benya is putting together an Action Collaborative – 60 people/universities around the country. Given that there are so few slots available, we may only get 2 slots. Paul will report back to the Council. We will be an active participant in the discussion.

10. Developing strategic research priorities – state goals
a. SCoR Science & Technology plan – Distributed last meeting – are there any further comments?
   i. Only substantial comment – keeping the membership separate from the PDF document so it is a live document.

b. Role of Research Council

11. Goals for the next year (All)
   a. Research Council Scorecard - 2019

12. Additional Items (All)

13. Next Meeting (proposed) – June 17, 2019

Myron – Nothing to add
Andy – Nothing to add
Anupma – Research performance – Keep profile up, google scholar, etc. Statewide reports are only through SCOPUS. Not sure if this is correct. Will look into this deeper. We may be underreporting our success.
Rosie – Foreign influence. Something that has been going on for a few months and needs to be addressed.
Myron – Are we responding to foreign gifts or contracts on foreign control - 117 of the Higher Education Act. Rosie – When we are upgrading our new system with Banner we are hoping to capture this – track the specific country.