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

Meeting Notes
Research Council
Monday, June 17, 2019
Butro 204, 2:30 – 4:00 p.m.

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

Attendees: Miles, Rosie, Myron, Paul, Dustin, Larry, Anupma, John, George, Weston

1. Safety Minute
   a. Field crew was out on a dig site near Tok and had a black bear incident. Camp leader had to shoot the bear, following protocol. When in the field and there is an incident, it does need to be reported. We have put a lot of effort into training. These examples are proof that the training is effective. – Recommend more investment in bear fences.

2. Update on Grants and Contracts Prioritization Plan FY19 (Madnick)
   a. Working on a unified proposal routing form. Before sending it out to the group for review, would like to work with the end users first to see what works for them and what doesn’t. The other campuses will be doing the same. The form now includes items that are required, but hadn’t been on the form in the past. Taking things out that are no longer applicable. Anupma would like to include space needs. Rosie confirms that this is included in the form.
   b. Metrics data and rehab project – moving from phase 1 to phase 2 – have completed the action items and is now with SW Financial systems. OIT is in the process of getting the contract together for phase 2. The agency hierarchy is almost done, which will then go to SW. In Banner, the agencies fall under
different levels, which are not accurate. Will start at Federal level, going down from there. Will also do the same for the state levels. This will clean everything up and will provide cleaner data.

   i. Miles and Dustin would like to take a look at the structure for their input.
   ii. Anupma would like to see the program core funding code. This is the level of information that is useful for advocating on Capitol Hill for specific programs.
   iii. Is there a way to track a secondary grantee? Yes, this new structure will cover this.

3. Report on Common Metrics (Madnick)
   a. Paul would like Rosie to create a taskforce to continue working on common metrics. Research success metrics. Will work towards collecting metrics we need, in addition to what we are not currently collecting, but would be useful.
      i. Taskforce - George, Miles, Tom, Andrew. Rosie will lead.

   ACTION: Common Metrics committee will provide a report at the August meeting.

   b. UAV use – The federal regulations are evolving rapidly, so our language has not been developed yet. Paul will check with Matt to see when they will be ready and will have the RC review the language.

4. Federal Update (Bryant)
   a. Chancellor Dan White was in town. Met with Dept. of Interior to talk about what researchers are doing. Larry was also in town.

   b. Cathy Cahill is testifying on Security. This is a newly established committee – chaired by Dan Sullivan. Focusing efforts on counter UAS – ability to mitigate UAS nefarious usage.

   c. Appropriations – patching together packages creating a minibus of 4 bills. Will move onto a second minibus of 5 bills with over 500 amendments in this package. They have an ambitious goal of moving them through before the 4th of July holiday.
i. Will the Army Corp of Engineers be split into three? Dustin has not been tracking this, but will check into it.

d. Senate has not been outwardly active on their bills and does not want to get out ahead of the Whitehouse on the budget. They are working on a boarder package.

e. House – bills coming out are looking good. The senate views are that the house appropriators are not making the numbers coincide with budget reality. Likely to see level numbers with FY19 to FY20.

f. Higher Education Act – ongoing process where there is a great ambition to work through an overdue authorization bill. The senate leadership for committee of jurisdiction would like to get it done before he retires. Still too far apart to start a committee. Senator Murkowski is on this committee.

g. Title IX issues – There was a hearing last week focused around a bill – Sexual Harassment in the Sciences Act, based on research from 2018.

h. Conflict of Commitment – Nothing as of yet, but suspect this will be a continued spotlight.

i. We are hosting a group of Chinese Academy of Sciences at UAF today. High level delegation. We have been partnering with them for the past few years.

ii. Request for foreign gifts and contracts reporting.

iii. Are we concerned about this affecting the student enrollment with Chinese students? Has not been noticed at this point, but will watch for this.

5. Juneau update (Baker)

a. The legislature adjourned last week. The operating budget has been transmitted to the governor and he has called a special session specific to the PFD. Will plan to meet in Wasilla. There is a bipartisan group looking at different PFD options. Expected to have their work done by July 5\textsuperscript{th}. Special session is scheduled for the 8\textsuperscript{th}. The governor intends to sign a budget so we will not be going into shutdown mode. Layoff notices have not gone out. It is anticipated that the governor will be
done within a few days. If there is a veto, the legislature can vote to override. However, the likelihood of it passing is difficult to calculate. With the special session set for the 8th, it is likely they will not call their own special session prior to that. We would have to start the year with the assumption that the governor’s amount is the budget we will need to work with.

b. Capital budget and USAArray – There was $10M coming out of the senate. We have $10M in deferred maintenance. Out of the House, they took our $10M and lowered it to $7.5M, and put the balance to USAArray. The $2.5M for the Earthquake center was CVR funded.

6. Research Security (Bryant/Kamberov)
   a. George is noticing that contracts from the government is not mentioning export control. This is inaccurate. Export control pertains whether it is mentioned or not. He is wondering if a training session is necessary and would like to educate people on the rules.
      i. Our policies are quite good. We need to come up with an educational session, integrated into faculty orientation (a slide or two). This is not just a research issue. It is a general compliance issue.

ACTION: George will organize a training session on export control and have the council review it.

7. National Academies of Science, Engineering, and Medicine (NASEM) Action Collaborative (Layer)
   a. Action Collaborative – We are now members of this collaborative. Will be able to have virtual members and co-members. Met for the first time last week and will be sharing best practices. There is mixed reporting on what agencies are doing. NSF is proactive. Other agencies are more lax. The most vocal people at the meeting were the ones having the problems. UA has been proactive and ahead of the curve and have a lot to offer to the conversation with a lot to learn, as well. Toolik is a model of how to handle field situations. Paul and Mary are putting together the panel that would participate in these committees.
8. Developing strategic research priorities – state goals
   a. Goals and Measures – keep our ranking as the leading arctic research facility.
      i. Encourage people to expand the research we do.
   b. September BOR – the president wants to do a deep dive of research.
      i. For this meeting – the president wants a presentation on how the strategic investments have moved the dial on research expenditures. How is this helping to maintain our ranking, expand our opportunities, etc. Paul will send a template to the provosts and research people mapping this out. Paul will check with the president to see who he wants to present this. Larry, George, Tom... Paul will also share the categories and what we have invested in the past. IP is separate and may be presented at the November BOR meeting. Will look specifically at the applied research, but will tie in the IP component.

   **ACTION:** Paul will send a template of the strategic investments and research expenditures to the provosts to begin compiling data for the September Board meeting.

      ii. If we take off capacity in the cuts, the research council will be stretched. Should we look at the next meeting with a fresh eye to look at how much time and money we are spending in monitoring and collecting metrics vs how much research we are doing. Also, look at how the research we have invested in has provided returns (return on investment). Focus on promoting research that has built capacities.

      iii. Larry has been working with Miles and Dustin on putting these together for the legislature. Has been doing this for the past 3 years. Does not feel it is a hard case to make. Our research is still doing phenomenally well, considering the financial hits we have been taking.

9. Next Meeting (proposed) – August 19, 2019