Meeting Synopsis:

1) Call to Order and Approval of Agenda
2) Approve minutes from November 9 and December 7, 2011 FCR meetings
3) Requests for Information and Updates
   a. Report from Washington DC - A report from Washington, D.C. – Christy Gullion
   b. Electronic Faculty Effort Certification (eFECS) – Anne McDonough
4) Adjournment

1. Call to Order and Approval of Agenda
   Jerry Miller called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m., as Chair Ron Stenkamp is out sick.

2. Approve minutes from November 9 and December 7, 2011 FCR meetings
   Minutes for both the November 9 and December 7, 2011 FCR meetings were approved.

3. Requests for Information and Updates
   a. Report from Washington, D.C. – Christy Gullion
   Christy Gullion, Director of Federal Relations for the University of Washington, gave an update of the federal research funding climate in Washington D.C. She discussed potential changes due to recent attempts to reduce federal spending such as the Budget Control Act and the Joint Select Committee on Deficit Reduction. After the Joint Committee failed to come to an agreement, sequestration and automatic cuts were triggered in federal spending over the next 10 years. She commented that these cuts may not be as devastating as anticipated.

   Gullion differentiated federal spending in two programs: Mandatory and Discretionary. Discretionary programs (which impact UW, including research, education, and training) will be cut, but it is uncertain what will be cut. Discretionary spending will be limited by annual budget caps, starting with fiscal year 2013. Gullion provided an overview of such caps:

   - Approximately $109 billion will be cut from Discretionary programs during the 2013 fiscal year
   - If Congress follows the Budget Control Act, $825 billion in cuts will be yielded from this process
   - Half of these cuts will come from Defense spending, half from non-Defense spending
   - The University of Washington receives funding from both of these budgets
   - Initial cuts will be 10% in security and defense funding and 7.8% in non-security funding
   - Cuts will decrease over the next 9 years, reaching 8.5% and 5.5% in 2021, respectively
   - Not all programs will necessarily be cut or treated equally
   - In January 2013, federal agencies will have authority over these cuts
After 2013, Congress will have more control of the cuts

Gullion commented that she sees the gradual decrease of cuts over time as good news, because after the initial adjustment, cuts are less drastic as time goes on. These cuts were clarified to be averages and it is uncertain how federal agencies will distribute these cuts. UW will attempt to leverage relationships with federal agencies to mitigate the impact of the cuts. Gullion suggested for the University to anticipate an 8% cut to National Institutes of Health (NIH) research, and 10% cuts annually to Department of Defense supported research, for planning purposes.

Gullion noted three points to consider: 1) National Science Foundation and NIH have been able to retain funding last year; 2) Defense funding, where the University gets some of its research funding has support of a majority in Congress; 3) Workforce training programs may receive larger cuts due to a focus on protecting research dollars. Questions arose about how faculty can take ownership of planning for such hits, either through the Senate Committee on Planning and Budgeting, or otherwise. It was noted that as cuts will be determined on a yearly basis, the University cannot plan based on projections, especially as this is an election year. Gullion mentioned that politicians could protect Defense spending by moving it from the Discretionary to Mandatory programs, but cuts to non-defense spending disproportionately hurt the University. Gullion noted that there has been discussion on implementation of the NIH salary cap, but no other information is currently available.

Discussion followed around differences in impacts between smaller and larger programs that will be hit, noting the difficulty in protecting smaller programs. Gullion noted that it is vital to have faculty feedback to illustrate the impact on smaller programs in order to protect such funding. It was suggested that the Council pass this communication to faculty and request them to contact Gullion. The Council requested that Gullion draft a general statement and send it out to all faculty, to which she agreed.

b. **Electronic Faculty Effort Certification (eFECS) – Anne McDonough**

Ann McDonough, eFECS Project business analyst, and Mike Anthony, Director of Management Accounting and Analysis were introduced. McDonough described eFECS, an electronic form of the Faculty Effort and Cost Share system, which manages approximately 5,000 faculty effort certification reports annually. She briefly discussed the development of the electronic form, which will be rolled out in January, and clarified who is required to have such certification. Certification is required twice a year, which are two different cycles, either academic or calendar year. McDonough discussed the timeline of the process, noting that faculty members are notified multiple times electronically. She emphasized the importance for faculty to check or forward their UW email, in order to ensure notifications are received.

---

Questions followed on time periods for eFECS submissions, and it was clarified that the Schools of Dentistry, Medicine and Public Health follow the calendar year deadlines, and faculty within all other schools will follow the academic calendar deadlines. The division of the year for academic year calendar groups are fall and winter quarters, and spring and summer quarters. When asked if further savings were gained beyond reduction in paper usage, McDonough commented that coordinators reported time savings during pilot runs from this streamlined system, in communication, convenience, and transparency for faculty on their process. Councilmembers inquired whether information was automatically generated prior to coordinator processing. It was clarified that information is automatically generated before coordinators review the form and send it to faculty, and a new tool allows markups and questions to be added. Further questions arose on staff workload with this new form, and Anthony clarified the new form reduces staff burden as calculations are automated, salary cap information is also visible to coordinators, notifications are easier, and faculty can remotely certify their eFECS online. Coordinators will be able to quickly track eFECS processing across faculty members, flagging those who have yet to complete the form.

McDonough demonstrated the online interface within the new form, and noted benefits of being able to gather metrics to continue improvement of the process. Questions were asked on the training responsibilities, whether the coordinators are responsible for training faculty members, and McDonough noted training will be provided to faculty, coordinators, and project sponsors. In addition, presentations will be given at department faculty meetings and communication will be sent out to faculty required to certify FECs. Councilmembers expressed approval on seeing these changes.

4. Adjournment
Meeting was adjourned at 10:07 a.m. by Jerry Miller.

Minutes by Jay Freistadt, Faculty Council Support Analyst. jayf@u.washington.edu

Present: Faculty: Haselkorn, Miller, Slattery, Spieker, Vogt
Ex-Officio Reps: Pantazis, Nolan, Gruhn, Spelman
Guests: Camber, Anne McDonough, Mike Anthony, Gullion

Absent: Faculty: Roesler, Stenkamp (Chair)
President’s Designee: Lidstrom
Ex Officio Rep: Nolan, Spelman, Gruhn