Meeting Synopsis:

1. Call to Order and Approval of Agenda

The agenda was approved.

2. Approval of minutes from the December 9, 2009, meeting

Council Chair Gerald Miller deferred approval of the December 9 minutes until the next Council meeting to allow more time for review.

3. Announcements/Discussion

Miller relayed a message from Jonathan Nurse that the UW’s Washington DC office will be hosting a Federal Update Session on January 22nd from 3:30-5:00 in 142 Gerberding Hall.
4. Request for Information and Updates

There were no requests for information or updates.

5. Old Business

Miller introduced Carol Rhodes, Assistant Director of the Office of Sponsored Programs to speak to the Council about their Office’s role in the review of proposals that involve export controls. Export controls may restrict who is allowed to participate in a project and how information is disseminated. The research done at a University is excluded from some of these regulations, and Rhodes and her staff assist PIs to determine how best to write their contracts in order to be able to do the work they envision. Her work in the Office of Sponsored Programs includes helping to negotiate out of many of these restrictions.

The Faculty Council on Research had invited Rhodes to today’s meeting because until last month, the Classified and Proprietary Research Review Committee (CPRRC) had never had occasion to review a proposal where export control restrictions were involved. This was a proposal from the Business School, and Rhodes informed the Council that there could well be more proposals like this one in the future from the Business School, the Information School, the College of Engineering, and others. There are increasing numbers of restrictions in general, and it’s becoming increasingly difficult to negotiate out of these restrictions. She appreciates that the Faculty Council on Research and its subcommittee, the CPRRC, provide faculty members with a possibility for appeal when contract negotiations don’t reach a favorable outcome.

Continued discussion led to the conclusion that the education of faculty involved in research about these requirements and the extreme importance of due diligence in this regard should be a high priority. Both Rhodes and James Poland, Facility Security Officer in the Office of Research, then outlined ways in which their respective offices provided training to faculty. But even given those opportunities, faculty often are taken by surprise by what they discover in the process of submitting proposals for funding research.

Rhodes requested that members of the FCR become familiar with the restrictions and complications that had been discussed, and she agreed to return to the Council on a yearly basis with updates.

A motion was made and seconded that the Facility Security Officer from the Office of Research be appointed as an ex officio representative on the Classified and Proprietary Research Review Committee. The motion was approved.

6. Request by APL for FCR approval of a new classified sub-contract for ONR signal processing review – Ron Stenkamp

Stenkamp reported that over the weekend the CPRRC received a request for approval of a contract between the Applied Physics Lab (APL) and the Office of Naval Research (ONR) for organizing and holding a summer meeting on Undersea Signal Processing. He noted that FCR had approved similar requests for this meeting over the past three years. CPRRC, the subcommittee that reviews classified proposals, (Miller, Vogt, Haselkorn and himself), reviewed the request and the PI provided answers to the prescribed set of questions. The only change in the request from last year’s is the language encouraging students to attend some of the sessions. That seemed to the CPRRC to be a good addition to the arrangements, and the CPRRC recommended that the full FCR approve the request at this meeting.

A motion was made to approve the contract and the motion was approved by the FCR.

7. Discussion of Research Faculty Issues – How to respond to David Lovell’s presentation.
In approaching the issues raised by David Lovell, the Council reviewed the relevant portion of the Faculty Code, Volume Two, Part II, Chapter 21. Section 21-32.A indicates that research professors have voting rights in general, but Section 21-32.C interjects a caveat that research faculty may vote on all personnel matters as described in the Faculty Code except those relating to the promotion and/or tenure of faculty to the following ranks: Senior Lecturer, Assistant Professor, Associate Professor, Professor, Associate Professor WOT and Professor WOT.

Apparently Lovell would like to remove that caveat and has asked to FCR to consider the possibility of drafting Class A legislation to do that. Miller reported that Mary Lidstrom, not present at this meeting, had suggested that this would most probably not be possible -- that the provision is included in the Code to prevent possible abuses. The Council considered how such abuses might occur and the fact that there are departments at the University where research faculty outnumber the ranks of regular faculty.

Discussion then turned to whether this was an appropriate question for the Faculty Council on Research. The Council ultimately determined that if this were a question that had an impact on a faculty member's ability to do research, then it would be appropriate for FCR consideration. This question, however, is more of a governance issue and, as such, is more appropriate for the consideration of the Faculty Council on Faculty Affairs.

Miller will contact David Lovell and advise him of the FCR’s decision regarding his request.

8. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:05 am.

Minutes by Susan Folk, Assistant to the Secretary of the Faculty, slfolk@u.washington.edu

Present: Faculty: Fluharty, Haselkorn, Miller (Chair), Stenkamp, Vogt, Wright
Ex Officio Reps: Redalje
Guests: Camber, Chronister, Poland, Rhodes

Absent: Faculty: Curran, Jain, Roesler, Spieker
Ex Officio Reps: Schmidt, Smith, Le, Fridley, Foster
Regularly Invited Guests: Gullion
President’s Designee: Lidstrom