The Faculty Council on Research met on Friday, February 20, at 10:30 a.m., in 26 Gerberding Hall. Chair Asuman Kiyak called the meeting to order at 10:33 a.m.

**PRESENT:**  
Professors: Booth-La Force, Kiyak, Heath, Kumar, Morrison, Rasmussen, Stewart, Tolnay, Vitaliano, Vogt  
*Ex-Officio* Dworkin, Camber, Kahl, Parks, Hogan

**ABSENT:**  
Professors: Heath, Kartsonis, Morrison, Ruzicka, Sarikaya,  
*Ex-Officio* Stygall, Barker, Blake, Hahm, Dworkin, Zuiches, McMahan

**Guests:**  
V’ella Warren, Ann Anderson, Charles Bennett, Jeff Volman, Frank Montgomery, Suzette Ashby for Ginger McMahan

**Synopsis:**

1. Update on tax issues related to research - Ann Anderson  
2. GPSS Student Survey Presentation - Theresa Barker  
3. RAB Infrastructure Review Process - Discussion

Kiyak called the meeting to order at 10:33 a.m.

**Update on tax issues related to research - Ann Anderson**
Kiyak introduced Ann Anderson, who reported good news on an important tax issue. The University's tax consultants, KPMG, have identified a sales tax exemption that will allow researchers to avoid paying sales/use taxes on machinery and equipment used for research and development. This arises from a tax exemption for manufacturers, which includes the University's scientific instrument manufacturing and University Press.

The State Department of Revenue has confirmed the University as a manufacturing entity engaged in research, which makes it eligible for the machinery and equipment sales tax exemption immediately. This will have a huge positive impact on the research endeavor at the UW.

To qualify for the exemption, equipment must be used more than 50% of the time in qualifying research, and the equipment must have a useful life of more than one year. The exemption applies to biomedical, bio-tech, high-tech, and hard science as opposed to social science and humanities-based research. There will be some gray areas, and these will be defined as time goes by. If there are questions, especially on large purchases, researchers should contact the Accounting Department.

Anderson also said the exemption is retroactive to 1997, so the Accounting Department is capturing past purchases and claiming tax refunds from the State.

**GPSS Student Survey – Theresa Barker**
GPSS Representative Theresa Barker summarized an informal survey she conducted with fellow Graduate and Professional Student Senators, to answer the question "What concerns do you have as graduate students about research issues, including Masters' theses, dissertations, and RA positions?"
Barker said she encountered questions about the role of the Faculty Council on research and the grad student's role in research, plus concerns about the time-consuming process required to get Human Subjects research projects approved. Grad students pointed out that their classes are often concluded before Human Subjects projects are approved.

Kiyak and Hogan described FCR's role as a faculty body that provides input, advice, and oversight on all areas of the research enterprise at the UW. This includes recommendations to various administrative boards and the Faculty Senate, and provides a conduit for faculty ideas and concerns independent of the administration. Topics include classified research, intellectual property, security issues, and employment issues.

There is indeed a problem in approving Human Subjects research in a timely manner. It's hard to be too aggressive about it, because it does involve human subjects. The Office of Research is trying to find ways to expedite low risk projects. It was also suggested that grad students try to involve an experienced researcher as a mentor, to minimize application errors that can delay the process. The electronic submission and routing system that is just coming online may help to identify and solve some of the common application errors.

Barker will report the FCR response to GPSS and will report any further questions or concerns.

**RAB Infrastructure Review Process**

Mac Parks reported that the Research Advisory Board has asked several UW agencies to do self studies to identify their staffing and budget needs. During Winter Quarter, an Evaluation Committee that also involved Asuman and other faculty reviewed the self studies and began to synthesize them into a proprieties document for funding allocations.

Parks would like the Council to discuss the draft report at its March 19 meeting. He will provide copies of the draft report.

**HB 3187 – Prohibiting work under state contracts from being performed at locations outside the United States.**

Kerry Kahl reported that this bill, which would hamper UW researchers substantially, has left the House Rules Committee with a majority "pass" recommendation. There is a substitute bill in committee as well. Kiyak asked to be kept abreast of this bill so the legislative rep. can follow up.

FCR members are invited to a Business Technology Showcase in the HUB, March 26 from 9:00-3:00. Online systems that have been developed for payroll, finance, and several other applications will be previewed.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 noon. *Minutes by Linda Fullerton, Recorder.*