Meeting Synopsis:

1. Introductory comments
2. Call to order and approval of Agenda
3. Approval of minutes from 7 March FCR meeting
4. Announcements
5. Requests for Information and Updates
   a. Network of Interdisciplinary Initiatives – NII (Suzanne Ortega, Vice Provost and Dean, The Graduate School and Melissa Austin, Associate Dean for Academic Programs, The Graduate School)
   b. Electronic Faculty Effort and Cost Sharing – eFECS (Jeanne Marie Isola, Director, Strategic Initiatives Office)
   c. Update – Office of Research (David Eaton, Associate Vice Provost for Research, Office of Research spoke on behalf of the Office of Research due to Mary Lidstrom’s absence)
   d. Update – Faculty Effort Certification (Susan Camber, Assistant Vice President, Research Accounting and Analysis)
6. Discussion
   a. Classified, Proprietary and Restricted Research Subcommittee (Vogt)
   b. Issues for upcoming quarter meetings from FCR at large
7. New Business
8. Adjournment
1. Introductory Comments

Mark Haselkorn, acting as Chair due to the Chair Brent Stewart’s absence called the meeting to order at 9:33 a.m.

2. Call to order and Approval of Agenda

Agenda was approved after a correction was pointed out by Daniel Vogt to agenda item 6, replacing the second “Classified” with the word “Restricted.” Agenda item 6 now reads: “Classified, Proprietary and Restricted Research Subcommittee.”

3. Approval of Minutes

The only correction made to the minutes was again in item 6a, replacing the second Classified with the word Restricted. The minutes were approved after this change.

4. Announcements

Mark Haselkorn informed the Council that Peggy Fanning had informed him that there would be an earthquake drill starting at 9:45 today, so if we hear anything at that time, not to be alarmed; we will just continue on with our meeting.

5. Requests for Information and Updates

a. Network of Interdisciplinary Initiatives – NII

This is an initiative of all campus interdisciplinary initiatives that began with the 17 interdisciplinary programs housed in the Graduate School. Suzanne Ortega, Vice Provost and Dean of the Graduate School, and Melissa Austin, Associate Dean for Academic Programs, presented. The goal of NII is to reach out to interdisciplinary programs across UW’s campuses to find better ways to seed, sustain and support interdisciplinary activity at the University. For example, how can the University better address faculty promotion and tenure issues in light of interdisciplinary program participation? How can the university foster unique opportunities for engaging in interdisciplinary research, teaching, and training and also advocate for changes in University structure to facilitate interdisciplinary work?

Associate Dean Austin briefly described three core areas in which action could significantly increase support of ID program teaching, research and training at the UW. These three cores areas are based on recommendations developed in November at the NII Working Group 2005 meeting. They are:

1. Faculty appointments, promotion and tenure
2. Allocation of resources, including indirect costs
3. Development and outreach

The report by Gail Dubrow and Jennifer Harris entitled, “Seeding, Supporting, and Sustaining Interdisciplinary Initiatives at the University of Washington: Findings, Recommendations and Strategies,” details findings about the successes and challenges of interdisciplinary activity at the University and outlines strategies for implementation of their recommendations. It is available at the NII website, under “Network of Interdisciplinary Initiatives (NII), Reports and Documents.” Even though it says that comments will be accepted until March 1, 2006 and should be directed to the authors of that report; they will still accept any comments that you would like to make.
At a workshop held January 17, 2006, ID faculty and staff from across the campus broke up into three groups in order to address issues in the three areas of action.

One of the dilemmas is for junior faculty who become involved in interdisciplinary activity but do not receive full credit for these activities when they are reviewed for promotion and tenure. B. Robert Franza commented that we need to find ways to encourage and create different ways to recruit individuals into interdisciplinary programs. One suggestion was the possibility that a junior faculty member could get tenure under a new interdisciplinary faculty appointment such as “University Professor,” which would cut across disciplines and could be housed in the Graduate School.

Richard Wright suggested that departments could be rewarded with incentives to hire an interdisciplinary person since many departments view this as giving up a slot for a regular faculty position in traditional areas.

Suzanne Ortega suggested that we find a way to nurture interdisciplinary research while integrating educational programs that involve multiple disciplines.

The main problem seems to be resources to sustain these programs.

David Eaton pointed out that several federal training grants that offer dual mentors have become very successful in bridging disciplines.

Suzanne Ortega pointed out Graduate School Memorandum No. 5, under which the Graduate School can establish interdisciplinary committees or degree-offering groups in which faculty members can be active and yet retain their primary associations and appointments in departments, schools, or colleges. We need to look at and build on these existing mechanisms.

Gerry Miller noted that this is a key issue for the University and faculty; the problem is severe and may need a subcommittee from FCR to join NII and the Research Office.

Motion was made: to form a subcommittee including Mark Haselkorn, Daniel Vogt, Gerry Miller, B. Robert Franza, and Melissa Austin from the Graduate School. Mark Haselkorn will send the first email to this subcommittee and set up a wiki for input towards preparing a proposal to the Council that would hopefully lead to the creation of a cross-campus committee to build on the work of the Graduate School's Network of Interdisciplinary Initiatives. [NOTE: the wiki URL is: http://uwnii.pbwiki.com] This committee will help to clarify issues and make recommendations to forward, through FCR, to the Faculty Senate.

Melissa Austin thought that this proposal of creating a subcommittee was great and a good way to begin.

b. Electronic Faculty Effort and Cost Sharing – eFECS (Jeanne Marie Isola, Director, Strategic Initiatives Office)

Sue Camber started by saying that this is a project that runs on parallel tracks not only for compliance issues but for tracking and reporting cost sharing to the federal government. The federal government is taking an increasing interest in effort compliance issues. This has resulted in recent settlements at major research universities, including Johns Hopkins, Harvard, and Northwestern. It is critical that the University of Washington’s effort system continues to be compliant with federal regulations and requirements.

Jeanne Marie Isola distributed a handout of an overview of the eFECS Project Overview. The purpose of this project is to automate and simplify effort reporting and cost sharing systems and processes. Since faculty will
be the key users of this electronic FEC system, she really would like their input, to assist us in ensuring that the application is easy to use.

In some departments the staff or administrators fill out these forms manually and the faculty look it over and sign it. The old system of manually filling out the forms is inefficient and difficult for both central and campus units to track.

David Eaton talked about the high risk to the University because the federal government through their audits is making sure the PIs are being compliant and spending their time correctly. The federal government is the driving force for streamlining and developing an automated system that works for faculty. So, faculty need to be more involved. The Process Improvement Team is hoping that faculty will get involved and give them feedback of what works and what doesn't. They are hoping for to form a PI Advisory Group.

c. Update – Office of Research (David Eaton, Associate Vice Provost, Office of Research)

David Eaton, Associate Vice Provost for Research, Office of Research, spoke on behalf of the Office of Research. He gave the Faculty Council on Research an update on the hiring of an Associate Vice Provost for Research Compliance Officer. The search is going well, and we had about 26 applications which were narrowed down first to a short list of about six very strong candidates, and then, after completing phone interviews, were narrowed down to four. UW will be interviewing two candidates in-person during the third and fourth weeks of April.

Dr. Bernard Schwetz, Director of the US Office of Human Research Protections (OHRP), visited the University on April 5, 2006. The Office of Research hosted a one-day program so as many people as possible were able to meet with Dr. Schwetz, hear what he has to say about OHRP and human research protections, and provide an opportunity for Dr. Schwetz to hear from institutional officials, IRB members, administrators, and researchers in our region. This was a unique opportunity and very informative regarding human subjects protection from a OHRP Director who oversees compliance across the entire country. This was not only helpful for us but also very informative for Dr. Schwetz too.

d. Update – Faculty Effort Certification (Susan Camber, Assistant Vice President, Research Accounting and Analysis)

Sue Camber reported that a few days ago, NIH came out with a statement in their newsletter that said, among other things, "There is no Federal requirement to consider 'Bid and Proposal' effort, including the preparation of preliminary data, in payroll certifications (effort reporting)." Universities and professional organizations already have a couple of different interpretations of this article. If they are in fact saying that proposal effort doesn't count in institutional effort, this directly contradicts the stance of various other governmental agencies. The Council on Governmental Relations (COGR) will be speaking with NIH to learn more next week.

6. Discussion

a. Classified, Proprietary and Restricted Research Subcommittee (Vogt)

Nothing to report.

b. Issues for upcoming quarter meetings from FCR at large

Send email to Brent Stewart of ideas for upcoming quarter meetings from FCR at-large
7. New Business

None.

8. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 10:53 AM. Minutes recorded by Peggy Fanning, Assistant to the Director, Office of Research. Minutes to be approved at the next FCR meeting scheduled for 4 May 2006.

Present: Faculty members: Fluharty, Franza, Haselkorn, Miller, Morrison, Rasmussen, Vogt, and Wright

Ex officio members: Ashby-Larrabee, Eaton for Lidstrom,

Absent: Faculty members: Benner, Booth-La Force, Haeseleer, Kiyak, Kumar, and Stewart,

Ex-officio members: Barker, Cheema, Dworkin, Lidstrom, Lovell, and Welton

Guests: Melissa Austin, Sue Camber, David Eaton, Peggy Fanning, Jeanne Marie Isola, Donna Kerr, Wayne Jehlik, Drew Macuen, Suzanne Ortega, Gary Petersen, and Sinh Simmons