The Faculty Council on Research met Thursday, April 12, 2001, at 12:00 p.m. in 36 Gerberding. Chair Mark Bothwell presided.

PRESENT: Professors Bosch, Bothwell, Gordon, Kartsonis, Stewart, Vance Ex-Officio Camber, Ghosh, Jewell (with vote), Perrin, Sjävik, Zuiches Regular Guests Mac Parks, Office of Research; Kerry Kahl, Director of Purchasing and Stores. Special Guests: Ann Anderson and David Wright, UW Financial Services; Jon Blake, UW Libraries Administration; Debra Ketchell and Nanette Welton, UW Health Sciences Library.

ABSENT: Professors Ewart, Heath, Mirza, Reh Ex-Officio Dupuy, Kwiram Ludwig, Sheehan, Williams.

The Minutes from March 14, 2001 were approved as written.

ProCards

David Wright presented the Council with an overview, the current status, and future directions of the recently launched ProCard Program. The ProCard is a Visa charge card (provided by JP Morgan Chase) that any permanent member of the University staff and faculty is eligible to receive once authorized by their departments and the ProCard Administrator. The ProCard can be used for making most purchases up to $2,000.00 per transaction. The program also provides a web-based accounting system (Paymentech) that is reconciled at the departmental level. The Program reduces the use of petty cash funds, reduces paperwork, and provides a streamlined reconciling procedure.

Wright explained that the Program is expanding with care to ensure proper training of faculty and staff. Currently there are nearly 900 ProCards in use that have been used for nearly 4,000 transactions. Wright pointed out that this number equates to nearly 4,000 invoices that did not need to be processed, eliminating a great volume of paperwork.

In the future the Program will continue to expand in departments campus-wide and will also focus on expanding ways for departments to use data on purchasing and generating reports.

Wright explained that ProCards can cover multiple budgets but have one primary default budget number. The Principal Investigators can monitor all purchases. Departmental administrators can re-allocate purchases to different budgets and assign object codes online before the bill is paid. Anderson made one cautionary note against departments assigning a Federal grant as the default budget.

Wright also mentioned that the Program will eventually be teamed up with Environmental Health and Safety to upload chemical purchase information to update information for the lab safety system.

There was a discussion about internet purchases and sales tax issues. Wright and Anderson said that the system is automatically prompted to assign taxes for all purchases. Council members wondered how Federal law on internet purchases and exemption from out-of-state taxes would apply in this case. Parks requested that the Council seek more information on this issue. He pointed out that the University has been arguing for tax exemptions for research for years and claimed that that most major, research universities have this exemption policy.

Ann Anderson informed the Council that the Financial Services office is also in the process of developing an automated travel reimbursement system. Financial Services and the Purchasing and Stores department are working jointly on developing a streamlined system for processing general reimbursements that would eliminate the need for purchase orders on many transactions.

Indirect Cost Rate Update

Camber updated the Council on recent negotiations with the Department of Health and Human Services (DHSS) on the University's indirect cost rate (a percentage rate determined to reflect the University's costs of conducting funded research projects). She announced that the current rate of 52%, that was to end in 2002, has been extended to 2004. The rate from 2002-2004 will be 51.6% due to a required drop for rate extensions. She noted that the DHSS does not normally approve multiple extensions, so it is most likely that the University will need to conduct a full renegotiation of the rate in a few years.

In response to a question from Stewart, Camber said that the cost of conducting research is determined based on the cost of facilities (primarily determined by space studies) and on administrative costs (which is a federally capped amount. Parks
underscored the significance of this cap and the nationwide pressure to change it. Stewart noted the fact that private universities
tend to have higher indirect cost rates. Chamber confirmed that though their rates have come down a bit in recent years, private
universities' rates are running on average around 40-60%; she said that UW's rate is typical for large, public Universities. Stewart
also asked how the funds get back to the department? Chamber answered that the budget office annually allocates the money to
departments by way of the Deans. Bothwell conveyed what he called common sentiment among faculty that there is an
"evaporation" of indirect costs before money reaches their departments.

**Online Library**

As was mentioned at the last meeting, a nationwide, grassroots movement is gaining strength among researchers in the health
sciences to boycott journals that do not allow free access to their articles online at a central website six months after initial
publication. FCR invited representatives from UW libraries to discuss the issue.

Ketchell's opened the discussion stating that, in her opinion, any publication that doesn't go online within the next three years will
cease to exist. Because most publishers are moving in that direction, she believes that some central repository is needed for online
publications for archival purposes.

In Ketchell's opinion there are three fully for-profit publishers, Elsevier, Kluwer, and Nature, who completely dominate the journal
publishing market. They and so-called not-for-profit associations charge exorbitant subscription rates for journals. Since most
research is funded by federal grants and most of the results are published in these journals, by paying institutional subscription
rates in a sense the public is buying back the knowledge they've already paid for. Ketchell praised Highwire Press of Stanford
University Libraries for allowing professional associations and institutions to purchase publications online at discounted prices.

From an academic perspective, Blake noted that libraries are in a state of chaos and rebellion over the journal subscription rates,
which he said, is symptomatic of larger problems. As journal subscription rates rise, the libraries have less money leftover to buy
books, which leads book-publishers to produce fewer books, which drives the cost of books up, and so on. Blake stated that an
emphasis on quantity over quality of publications in tenure decisions only adds to the problem.

Ketchell noted that online libraries do create costs to libraries, but that the costs would be shifted from the cost of binding, re-
shelving, buildings and facilities to the costs of negotiating licenses, retaining online access, and maintaining search engines.

Members of the Council were aware that the initiative to boycott journals is currently being debated nationwide and acknowledged
some of the objections they have read. For-profit journals could possibly take advantage of the open-access policy by "rummaging
through" the repository and put any article they wished in their own search engines. Likewise, pharmaceutical companies would
have a way to get around current copyright policies and could conceivably attach their logos to articles, omit some data they did
not want known, and forward publications with drug samples as endorsements of their products. Another concern raised was that
professional associations that derive most or all of their operating funds from the sale of their publications would not be viable
within a free, online publication system.

Furthermore, there is also some debate about how libraries would integrate a central repository's system with their own search
engines and systems. Blake noted that the biggest technological barrier to an archival repository might be that libraries would not
be able to predict the data storage formats of the future, and we would be forced to maintain "antiquated museums of technology."

The Council noted that most signors to the boycott initiative are researchers from developing nations who currently cannot afford
the high cost of journal subscription rates. If online markets were to open up in developing nations, some journals that were
previously driven out of existence by large, for-profit publishers may re-emerge as electronic journals for new markets. Kartsonis
asked how these journals might be able to recoup their copyrights?

On a related note, Parks mentioned that some faculty have had success with proposing their own terms to their copyright
agreements. He noted his desire for the faculty to further examine this issue.

Gordon suggested that FCR host a panel forum to facilitate further discussion of the online library issue. Bothwell said he would
speak with Faculty Senate leadership and propose such a forum.

Meeting adjourned at 1:32 p.m.; minutes by Katherine Wimble, Recorder.