University of Washington
Faculty Council on Research

The Faculty Council on Research met on Thursday, April 15, 2004, at 10:00 a.m., in 26 Gerberding Hall. Chair Asuman Kiyak called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m.

**PRESENT:** Professors Booth-LaForce, Heath, Kiyak, Morrison, Rasmussen, Stewart, Tolnay, Vogt
Ex-Officio Blake, Camber, Parks, Zuiches, McMahan (Ashby), Hogan, Barker

**ABSENT:** Professors Kartsonis, Kumar, Ruzicka, Sarikaya, Vitaliano
Ex-Officio Stygall, Dworkin, Hahm, Kahl

**Synopsis:**
1. Infrastructure review recommendations
2. FCR members' reports re: colleagues' major concerns about research infrastructure
3. Concerns re: timeliness of Human Subjects applications.

**Announcements**
The issue of Security Reviews came up as the result of an audit. Mac Parks has been asked about this procedure by the auditors and believes Code changes need to be made, but these might possibly be made by the Secretary of the Faculty. Mac will research the procedure and get back to the Council.

Asuman will not be present at the June meeting, and incoming chair Brent Stewart is out of town as well. It may be necessary to change the date.

**Infrastructure Review Recommendations**
An Infrastructure Review is being conducted by the Research Advisory Board to appropriately allocate the Central Administration’s share of F&A cost recovery, which amounts to some $170 million. Part of that money goes to schools and colleges, but part goes to fund the infrastructure that supports the UW's research effort (e.g., Grant and Contract Services, Grant and Contract Accounting, libraries, etc.).

After the Office of Research compiled a fourteen-unit self-study and needs assessment, the following items emerged as high priorities for $5.6 million in immediate funding:

- Grant and Contract Services/Human Subjects Division: lease of 14,000 sq. ft.
- Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee: animal protocols system
- Office of Research Information Services: GCA-GCS bridge to federal grant systems
- Research Accounting and Analysis: replace Faculty Effort Certification system
- Environmental Health and Safety: address urgent compliance needs
- Management Accounting and Analysis: staff support for F&A tracking/negotiation
- Human Subjects Division: convert two temporary coordinator positions to permanent
- Grant and Contract Services: hire two additional contract administrators
- Human Resources: hire two additional staff for hiring research positions
- Planning and Budgeting: continue incremental funds for research equipment
- Facilities Services, Planning and Budgeting: create a program for research facility renovation and maintenance
- Capital Projects: increase staffing to provide more responsive service for research
- Libraries: funding for serials and database subscriptions

Craig Hogan commented that several million dollars more will be allocated – these are just the most immediate items. Information Technology and security are high priorities for the research community as well.
Parks invited Council members to send him more thoughts and ideas for funding needs – the process is not over by any means. Next year, the process will begin earlier and can involve more input from the Research Council. Parks and Hogan would also like to have comments on how this process can be improved in the future, since this will be an annual review. Heath thanked Parks for his work – this has been a difficult task, but it's moving ahead well.

At its next meeting, the Research Advisory Board will consider additional items, resolve some of the "question mark" items, and devise a sustained mechanism for an annual process.

**FCR members' reports re: colleagues' major concerns about research infrastructure**

Dan Vogt, Forestry: Vogt's colleagues are concerned with Grant and Contract Accounting, the progress of capital projects, and the proposed increase in parking fees that put an undue burden on researchers who have to drive private cars to use in their research. The timeliness of Human Subjects approvals impacts Forestry research – one grad student in his department has waited a full year and still does not have the necessary approvals.

John Rasmussen, Arts and Sciences, Bothell: The timeliness issue in Human Subjects comes up all the time on the Bothell campus, plus a general lack of knowledge about what is required in a human subjects review.

Stewart Tolnay, Sociology: Human Subjects, and the cost of hiring graduate Research Assistants are issues in Sociology. Some of his colleagues want to hire post-docs, because it's cheaper. This will get worse, not better, with the unionization of the RAs. Graduate programs may need to be downsized to fit available resources. Some foreign grad students may become more attractive, because they are fully funded by their governments.

Hogan said there will be changes in human subjects reviews, especially in low risk areas. It may be possible to de-centralize some of the work.

Asuman Kiyak, Dentistry: People are very happy with the EGC-1 system. She would like to see as much processing as possible done electronically. Her colleagues agree Human Subjects must be streamlined in some way.

Brent Stewart, Radiology: He has heard some complaints about Grant and Contract Services, but these may be the result of late submissions of grant proposals. Of greater concern is the lack of research space, in both Medicine and Health Sciences, and the condition of the Health Sciences research facilities. The Library system's canceling of subscriptions to some online journals is also problematic.

Cathryn Booth-LaForce, Nursing: Human Subjects is a concern in her department, especially the time and effort to get projects approved. Lack of research space continues to be a problem. Booth-LaForce said there is also confusion and lack of information about sub-contract procedures.

Ross Heath, Oceanography: Price-gouging by scientific publishers is a problem for researchers and libraries. Otherwise, people are happy with the improved quality of financial reports, and with the improvements in the hiring process.

Jon Blake, Libraries: The support for libraries is gratifying. The RAB allocation figure of $500,000 will help with the "disappearing serials" problem.

Teresa Barker, GPSS: Human Subjects and the maintenance of facilities are the primary concerns Barker is hearing.
Diane Morrison, Social Work: In the School of Social Work, seven of the eight researchers Morrison interviewed reported problems with timeliness and backlogs in Human Subjects reviews. There appear to be infrastructure problems with Grant and Contract Accounting – researchers report "surprises" of up to $2,000 on closed grants. Some researchers say it's hard to get clear guidance from Grant and Contract Services, especially with training grants. There are also problems with Mailing Services, if researchers have off-campus addresses – some researchers have to pick up their mail on campus.

Sue Camber believes that paying accumulated leave to terminating employees may be at the root of problems with closed grants. Camber and Carol Zuiches will confer with Morrison for more information.

**Concerns re: timeliness of Human Subjects applications**

Kiyak read a memo by two experienced researchers who had severe criticisms about the timeliness of Human Subjects approvals, and were frustrated about their attempts to effect change or improvement in this area. Their frustration was exacerbated by their feelings that these same problems have persisted since the 1990's. Kiyak and others met with the two researchers to investigate the situation, and reported to the Council.

After a wide-ranging discussion, it was the Council's view that one or more FCR members should sit on the Human Subjects Review Board as liaisons to the Research Council. FCR would in turn report to the Faculty Senate if problems persist. Kiyak would like volunteers for this position.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:35. *Minutes by Linda Fullerton, Recorder.*