Cathryn Booth-LaForce, Vice Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:33 AM

Meeting Synopsis:
1. Introductory comments
2. Call to order and approval of Agenda
3. Approval of minutes from 6 April 2006 FCR meeting
4. Announcements
5. Requests for Information and Updates
   a. Off-campus research footprint (Harlan F. Patterson, Vice Provost for Planning and Budgeting, Office of Planning and Budgeting)
   b. Update – Office of Research (David Eaton, Associate Vice Provost for Research, Office of Research)
   c. Retirement payout for staff leave balance (Susan Camber, Assistant Vice President, Research Accounting and Analysis and Gary Quarfoth, Associate Vice Provost, Budget Office)
   d. Update – Committee on Cross-Campus Interdisciplinary Research (Mark Haselkorn)
6. Discussion
   a. Issues for June meetings from FCR at large
7. New Business
8. Adjournment

1. Introductory Comments
Cathryn Booth-LaForce, Vice Chair, welcomed Greg Benner (UWT) and Barbara Perry (WDC) attending via teleconference.

2. Call to order and Approval of Agenda
Agenda was approved.

3. Approval of Minutes from 6 April 2006 FCR meeting
The minutes were approved with a couple of minor edits that Sue Camber has suggested on pages 3 and 4.

4. Announcements
FCR appointments end 15 September 2006 for Subodha Kumar, Diane Morrison, John Rasmussen and Brent Stewart. Also, Robert Franza resigned from FCR effective 1 May 2006.

Sandra Lier, Associate Vice President for Business Services, is looking for volunteers for serving on the search committee for the Purchasing Director Search. If no one volunteers, Brent Stewart will handle.

5. Requests for Information and Updates
   a. Off-campus research footprint (Harlan Patterson, Vice Provost for Planning and Budgeting, Office of Planning and Budgeting)
Vice Provost for Planning and Budgeting, Harlan Patterson, presented an overview of off-campus research space. Traditionally, the designation of ‘on-campus’ and ‘off-campus’ has been based on physical location with respect to the main campus and a difference in the F&A (facilities and administration) costs of around 52% and 26%, respectively. The difference between these being that no ‘F’ component of the F&A being charged against off-campus research (these costs written into the grant budget directly). Primarily with the development of South Lake Union buildings to house UW biomedical research, the current designation of ‘on-campus’ versus ‘off-campus’ is not based simply on physical location, but rather the University’s designation for a building related to how support services are provided and the financial model for payment of these services. Three examples of buildings which are physically off-campus, but are designated ‘on-campus’ (with separate F&A cost rates) are the Harborview Research and Training building, the Rosen building and the South Lake Union I & II buildings.

Vice Provost Patterson distributed handouts showing a summary of different model characteristics and how each facility is considered for its F&A cost rate and a table showing F&A cost rates for different type of agency support. UW currently spends more on research than comes in through F&A costs. For off-campus rates, facilities costs (the ‘F’ component) are charged directly to the grant. For off-campus leased space, the PI usually identifies the need and initiates a request for the space. The UW Real Estate Office will help find space and negotiate a lease. In most instances, the lease costs are recovered by direct charges to grants. The department or school is primarily at financial risk for lease costs. The unit may also ask the PI to bear some risk if they have funding to do so. When off-campus space is acquired by the Provost/President/Regents, the Provost decides how such space will be used.

The UW Research and Technology Building also known as the ‘R&T’ Building is a “new model” for housing cutting edge of research. UW found a construction company who designed, built, and will operate and maintain this new building for 30 years. The R&T building was conceived to help meet the growing need for flexible, cost-effective facilities to support multi-disciplinary research initiatives at UW. The space is intended for research projects that need to be on the main Seattle campus and are subject to on-campus F&A cost recovery rates. As this building is maintained and operated by the builder who designed and built the building should help us maintain a high degree of flexibility in altering the configuration of available space on relatively short notice.

Mark Haselkorn asked how UW designates funds to build such research facilities. Vice Provost Patterson explained that new research initiatives are projected to bring in an additional $30 million per year, generating Indirect Cost Recovery (ICR) of approximately $10 million per year to help support the cost of research facilities. Of these monies, approximately $4 million could be used to pay debt service on construction bonds.

Mark Haselkorn asked whether the new model was revenue neutral. Vice Provost Patterson explained that the current analysis is that the program cost recovery rate is about 75-80%, so there is a shortfall of about 20-25% of monies to help support the building. The Budget Office is planning ahead and putting money aside toward the operating costs. When adding a new building, we don’t know a priori the exact cost recovery figures and sometimes this has lead to painful lessons. The ‘new model’ approach might be an answer to this challenge. UW research growth has outstripped the ability of the state to help fund new facilities. **UW cannot expand research in strategic areas and still remain nationally competitive in research unless we can generate new research revenue without additional research space.** The state did put in $2.5 million towards the S. Lake Union Building.

Carol Zuiches asked Vice Provost Patterson where UW found a company to take on the design, construction, operation and maintenance the R&T building for thirty years. Vice Provost Patterson said that not only was the contract willing to take on the entire project, but they lowered the ceilings to 13.5 feet instead of the usual 15 feet, and were able to add an extra floor to the building within the budget allocated to the project.
Dave Eaton pointed out that all research space has various requirements. The R&T Building has been built with vibration sensitive factors and is flexible to needed space configuration changes such as wet lab or core office space.

Vice Provost Patterson volunteered to return to a future FCR meeting if follow-up issues are identified.

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

Associate Vice Provost for Research, David Eaton, gave an overview of the search for the Associate Vice Provost for Research Compliance Officer. The Search Committee narrowed the field of candidates down to six possibles. UW brought the two best candidates to campus for interviews. One of these candidates turned out to not be a viable candidate, but the second looks promising. The Office of Research has been checking references and is still awaiting one reference. According to Associate Vice Provost Eaton, things look promising, and the Office of Research is excited about the feedback received. Dave brought copies of the candidate’s CV to share with the Faculty Council (Chair’s note: although three FCR members were invited to the interviews, none were able to participate). Associate Vice Provost Eaton also explained that the prime candidate has a very good background with research in an Environmental Health Lab in Public Health before entering the administrative area ten years ago.

Associate Vice Provost Eaton informed the Council that he has been working on revising a primer covering the topic of how F&A monies are utilized; a topic faculty are wont to ask. He would like feedback on and Annual Report of the Grant and Contract Awards, where on the last page it shows a distribution of F&A costs.

Brent Stewart suggested that a future topic of discussion might center on where UW finds the funds to cover the gap between the actual cost of research and recovered ICR.

c. Retirement payout for staff leave balance (Susan Camber, Assistant Vice President, Research Accounting and Analysis; Gary Quarfoth, Associate Vice Provost, Budget Office)

At the request of the Council, Sue Camber addressed the issue of accrued sick leave and annual leave. When staff members accrue sick leave and annual leave and they are paid on a grant, the grant 'pays' for that leave in reduced productivity. If an individual leaves the UW before retirement, accrued and unused sick leave is not paid out. At retirement or death, accrued and unused sick leave is paid from a central fund and is not charged to grants. Accrued and unused annual leave is paid from grants at retirement, death, or separation. The maximum number of hours paid out is 240. The process of paying annual leave on the budget(s) the person is paid on when they leave the UW has been approved by the federal government and disclosed in our Cost Accounting Disclosure Statement. Recently, a large number of individual faculty members and faculty groups have expressed concern about annual leave payouts on grants as these costs are not anticipated in their research budgets. A further issue is that these anticipated costs may become a factor in hiring grant personnel, such that PIs may be reluctant to hire the most senior and experienced people from other projects because they do not want to absorb these costs. Sue is developing data and consulting with Planning and Budgeting on a possible review of the process.

Planning and Budgeting considers that vacation and sick leave accrual is an issue that the UW needs to address at some point. This is a considerable financial issue as the total dollar value of accrued vacation and sick leave is large. Based on knowledge of what other institutions have done in this area, UW could transition into vacation accrual over a number of years. UW would also have to look at the complexity/cost of necessary modifications to our administrative computing systems.
Current thought on converting to vacation and sick leave accrual would be accomplished through a modification (i.e., increase in) the benefit load rate. Gary Quarfoth suggested that it would be useful for him and Sue to work up a brief summary of the issue to better inform any future discussion at FCR and/or RAB. FCR members agreed to support Sue Camber and Gary Quarfoth in beginning a discussion of this issue with the RAB.

d. Update – Committee on Cross-Campus Interdisciplinary Research (Mark Haselkorn)

Mark Haselkorn created a wiki (http://uwnii.pbwiki.com) for input on a possible proposal from FCR to the Faculty Senate to create a cross-campus committee to build on the work of the Graduate School’s Network of Interdisciplinary Initiatives. Mark reported that the wiki is being accessed with some making changes and edits. A proposal will be presented for a vote of FCR at the June meeting. Everyone is encouraged to view the draft online and make edits as needed prior to a possible vote.

6. Discussion
Due to time constraints this topic was not covered.

8. New Business
Due to time constraints this topic was not covered.

8. Adjournment
The meeting was adjourned at 11:02 AM. Minutes recorded by Peggy Fanning, Assistant to the Director, Office of Research. Minutes to be approved at the next FCR meeting scheduled for 1 June 2006.

Present:  Faculty members: Benner (teleconference), Booth-La Force, Fluharty, Haeseleer, Haselkorn, Kiyak, Miller, and Stewart
Ex officio members: Ashby-Larrabbe, David Eaton for Lidstrom, and Welton

Absent:  Faculty members: Franzia, Kumar, Morrison, Rasmussen, Vogt, and Wright
Ex-officio members: Barker, Cheema, Lovell, and Welton

Guests: Sue Camber, David Eaton, Peggy Fanning, Harlan Patterson, Gary Quarfoth, Carol Zuiches

Faculty:
Greg Benner, Education, Tacoma
Cathryn Booth-LaForce, Nursing – Chair
David Fluharty, Marine Affairs
Francoise Haeseleer, Ophthalmology
Mark Haselkorn, Technical Communication
Sanjeev Khagram, Evans School of Public Affairs
H. Asuman Kiyak, Dentistry
Gerald Miller, Physics
Ilene Schwartz, Special Education
Ronald Stenkamp, Biological Structure
Daniel Vogt, Forest Resources
Richard Wright, Linguistics

Ex Officio:
Suzette Ashby-Larrabee, PSO Representative
Theresa Barker, GPSS Representative
McKinley Smith, ASUW Representative
David Foster, UWRA Representative
Mary Lidstrom, Vice Provost for Research
David Lovell, Legislative Representative
Nanette Welton, ALUW Representative