The Faculty Council on Research met on Thursday, May 20, 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, Sarikaya, Stewart, Tolnay, Vitaliano, Vogt  
Ex-Officio  Dworkin, Camber, Kahl, Parks, Zuiches, Hogan, Barker  

ABSENT:  
Professors  Kartsonis, Kumar, Ruzicka,  
Ex-Officio  Stygall, Blake, Hahm, McMahan  

Synopsis:
1. Announcements  
2. Petty Cash Accounts (Ann Anderson)  
3. Status of F&A Negotiations (Jane Wiseman)  
4. Subcommittee on Classified/Sensitive But Unclassified Research  

The April minutes were approved as corrected.

Announcements  
The June meeting date was changed from June 10 to June 3, place to be determined.  

All FCR members are encouraged to attend the 2040 Vision Research Forum and reception in honor of Interim President Lee Huntsman, which takes place June 4 from 1-5 p.m. Reservations required.  

Based on concerns that surfaced at the last meeting, Kiyak asked for volunteers to serve as liaison to the Human Subjects Policy Board. Stewart Tolnay, Daniel Vogt, Diane Morrison, and Cathryn Booth-LaForce are considering volunteering, and will email Kiyak about whether they will or will not be able to serve.  

Petty Cash Accounts  
Researchers who maintain checking accounts for the purpose of paying human subjects for their participation in research projects have found that Bank of America is charging $5.00 to cash these kinds of checks, if the payee does not have a checking account. This is a burden to low-income people.  

Several approaches were suggested to alleviate this problem, including payment in cash, gift cards, and positive verification between the accounting department and the banks, all of which have drawbacks in terms of security, inconvenience, or increased costs. Anderson is talking to Wells Fargo Bank, who may be willing to provide this service without charge in order to get increased UW business. Meanwhile, Anderson recommended offering a wide variety of gift cards in addition to checks and letting the subjects choose the option they prefer.  

Status of F&A Negotiations  
Jane Wiseman updated the council on the Indirect Cost Proposal negotiations due at the end of June.  
The F&A Steering Committee, which includes David Thorud, Asuman Kiyak, Craig Hogan, John
Coulter, Weldon Ihrig, Harlan Patterson, and others, are anticipating submitting a separate rate proposal for the lake Union complex due to the difference in services provided to this complex.

There will be changes in the "Other Sponsored Activities" rate as well. Wiseman said the Lake Union and Other Activities rates are the largest changes that are upcoming, and will probably be negotiated at about 52 percent. Indirect cost revenue for the past 12 months stands at $171 million, so this is a significant source of revenue and determining the proper rate is important. An increase of one point in the rate can mean a revenue increase of more than $2 million. Wiseman said she is "turning over every rock I can" to establish the best rates possible.

Researchers should be aware that there will be site visits by the Department of Health and Human Service as the negotiations move forward. HHS will be asking students and PIs in selected departments what they do and where their money comes from. Wiseman will also meet with departments so they know what to expect during the site visits. Wiseman will keep FCR apprised of her work.

Subcommittee on Classified/Sensitive But Unclassified Research
The subcommittee has reviewed the McLaughlin proposal received from the Applied Physics Lab (FA8750-04-C-0005 "BAA 02-06 "Speaker Detection and Tracking"), which is categorized as "Sensitive But Unclassified" research. The subcommittee is recommending that the contract not be approved.

The primary issue is restrictions on the publication of research that is not categorized Classified. This contravenes UW policy and Defense Department policy (NSDD 189) for this kind of unclassified research, a new category the Air Force is calling "Sensitive But Unclassified." Several research universities, including MIT, have taken the same position.

The subcommittee stressed that their recommendation has to do only with provisions of the contract, not with the project itself nor with the work of any person. As Craig Hogan observed, this is a policy decision - the Faculty Council on Research cannot recommend that the UW enter into a contract that takes us into violation of a Federal policy.

While the PI, the APL management, and the Air Force are pressing on this issue, and the subcommittee has not recommended any turndowns in the past, it was felt that the publication issue was serious enough to warrant a recommendation "against."

It was moved, seconded and unanimously passed to notify the PI of the following action:

The contract application by Jack McLaughlin of APL, in response to RFA #BAA-02-06-IFKA, will not be approved for submission because the funding agency's requirements are inconsistent with University of Washington policy and are a violation of Federal Policy NSDD 189. If the contract application is submitted as a classified proposal, the UW would be pleased to reconsider it.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:45. Minutes by Linda Fullerton, Recorder