Meeting Synopsis:

1. Call to order
2. Introductions
3. Review of FCR charge and recent functions
4. Approval of the minutes from May 7th and June 11th
5. Uniform grant guidance
6. Interdisciplinary programs
7. Approval requirements for researchers
8. Adjourn

1) Call to order

The meeting was called to order by Rosenfeld at 9:00 a.m.

2) Introductions

Members introduced themselves to the council.

3) Review of FCR charge and recent functions

Rosenfeld discussed the council’s charge and recent activities. According to the Faculty Code the council is responsible for all matters related to research. The council is an arm of the senate and an integral part of shared governance at the university with the role of advising the Senate Executive Committee (SEC) on issues relating to research. FCR is also asked on occasion to bring motions to SEC that can ultimately result in changes to the Faculty Code. FCR works closely with the Office of Research, as well as Vice Provost for Research Mary Lidstrom who serves as the president’s designee. Rosenfeld explained the major charge of the council is classified/restricted research and intellectual property rights. In addition the council plays a role in setting F&A and indirect costs rates and addresses issues surrounding collaborative research.

A comment was raised stressing the importance of intellectual property and the role the Center for Commercialization plays in working with faculty to facilitate intellectual property agreements.

4) Approval of the Minutes from May 7th and June 11th

The minutes from May 7th and June 11th were approved as written.

5) Uniform grant guidance
Associate Vice Provost for Research Joe Giffels was present to provide an overview of uniform grant guidance (UG) and how UW plans to approach the changes. UG is a section of the Revised Code of Federal Regulations that governs grants and agreements with certain entities covering a substantial amount of funding. The recent changes has consolidated several existing regulations into one which cover federal circulars, costs, administrative and audit requirements, and federal domestic assistance programs. Giffels clarified this applies to federal awardees, grants, cooperative agreements and competitive renewals.

Giffels presented the timeline of when the new regulations go into effect.

- December 26, 2013 – UG is issued.
- January 2014 – Sue Camber and Mary Lidstrom began discussions with representative from central administrative offices that will be affected by the regulations.
- June 26, 2014 – Federal agencies were to have submitted implementation plans to OMB and decide on how to apply regulations to funding awards.
- December 26, 2014 – UG is effective for awards.
- July 1, 2015 – UG audit requirements will be applied to activities
- July 1, 2016 – Procurement changes delayed. Possible beginning of first UW FY with newly-negotiated F&A rates.

A comment was raised noting there is still disagreement amongst federal agencies which has complicated outreach efforts surrounding the proposed changes.

Giffels presented on the changes that will be affecting UW researchers:

**More significant/certain:**

- Greater transparency in FOAs and NOAs.
- Computing devices with a cost of $2,000 or less are considered supplies and, like equipment, may be used for other activities.
- Short term visa costs are allowable; long term visa costs are not.
- Sub-awardees are entitled to their federal negotiated F&A rates or a 10% de minimis rate.
- Participant support costs on training grants as a unique cost item are exempt from F&A.
- Proposing waived F&A and F&A on direct costs as cost share requires agency prior approval.
- Greater resilience on agency prior approval to determine allowability of a questionable cost.

**Less significant/certain**

- Administrative and clerical costs allowable under certain circumstances.
- Details of individual agency implementation plans.
- Attention to internal controls.
- Sponsors may require accountability for program income generated after award termination.
- Sub-recipient monitoring and management.
- More specific performance goals.
- Procurement changes delayed to 2016.

Changes will also affect overall UW research, including:
More significant/certain:

- Greater regulatory standardization and consistency among agencies.
- Financial data reporting.
- Attention to internal controls.

Less significant/certain:

- Equipment inventory processes and systems.
- Overall effects of cost-sharing, equipment depreciation, fringe benefit, and other financial cost accounting principles on F&A rate/recovery.
- Sub-recipient monitoring and management.

Giffels explained that researchers will use the same process of contacting agencies when questions arise and can also ask UW for guidance as well. Discussion ensued about the complexity of the regulations and how the changes will impact UW research. A comment was raised stressing the importance of educating faculty about the changes. Members discussed whether it was best to wait until the regulations are finalize before educating the faculty, or summarize the changes over time as they slowly roll out. Giffels noted his office is providing updates on their website summarizing the changes.

Giffels explained the overall changes are meant to have three advantages: regulatory consistency, prevention of waste/fraud/abuse, and reducing administrative burdens. UW’s approach to complying with the changes is to identify the changes that will occur and map the guidance requirements to UW policies, procedures and systems. As part of the new procedures UW will provide a draft and seek approval across the institution before they are set in place. Giffels noted that UW is also participating in national discussions with representatives from federal agencies to provide answers to questions and pushback on outstanding concerns. In an effort to educate the community about the changes UW will conduct extensive outreach, provide regular updates, possibly establish town-hall style meetings, and establish a portion of its website dedicated to the new regulations. Training will be necessary with one portion focused on how to write a proposal under the new regulations. Giffels noted the new regulations will be quite extensive and is posted on their website.

A question was raised about recognizing post-docs and their involvement with the changes to the new regulations. A comment was raised that post-docs are commonly overlooked prompting a discussion of their role on the council. While post-docs on campus cannot be added as ex officio members on councils they are encouraged to attend FCR meeting on a regular basis. A suggestion was raised to invite Kelly Edwards to an upcoming FCR meeting.

6) Interdisciplinary programs

Rosenfeld reported on the Board of Dean’s recent statement on collaborative interdisciplinary approach to teaching and noted an interdisciplinary program in public health genetics is closing. Discussion ensued about termination to admissions and the core faculty who have left the program. It was noted that most faculty were asked to teach and mentor students without compensation and there were no funds to sustain the program. Members disused the role of activity based budgeting and its impact on the program within the School of Public Health. A comment was raised that there are a number of situations where different programs within departments are considering facilitating joint admissions. Discussion
ensued about interdisciplinary programs on campus and the challenges that occur when leadership changes.

A comment was raised that interdisciplinary programs and the impacts of activity based budgeting may be an issue for the Senate Committee on Planning and Budgeting to address, especially if the unit feels action needs to be taken prior to an RCEP.

7) Approval requirements for researchers

Members discussed the burden that faculty must endure in order to get approval for conducting research, including the number of onerous regulations that faculty must abide by. Rosenfeld commented that he would like to see what is in place to facilitate the process for investigators. Lidstrom commented that she would be willing to arrange a presentation for the December meeting. Lidstrom noted the university is making progress but continues to be underfunded. Discussion ensued about the elaborate protocols researchers must undergo for approval without being compensated for the additional work. A suggestion was raised to develop a fact sheet that would properly educate investigators and reduce confusion when seeking approval.

8) Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned by Rosenfeld at 10:10 a.m.

Minutes by Grayson Court, council support analyst. gcourt@uw.edu

Present:  Faculty: Rosenfeld (chair), Haselkorn, Levow, Marwick, Scheuer, Shields, Slattery
President’s Designee: Lidstrom
Ex-Officio Reps: Popejoy, Gebert

Absent:   Faculty: Vogt (sabbatical), Aragon, Beauchamp, Shen
Ex-Officio Reps: Louden, Taricani