

THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MILWAUKEE
Research Policy and Advisory Committee

Minutes

September 23, 2019; 1:00 p.m.

Kenwood IRC 2175

1. Call to order and approval of the agenda

Robin Mello called the meeting to order at 1:02 p.m.

Members Present:

Razia Azen, Liam Callanan, David DiValerio (GFC Representative), Mark Harris (ex officio), Tom Holbrook, Linda Kopecky, Tom Marcussen (ex officio), Robin Mello, Vali Raicu, Kristin Roosevelt, Brooke Slavens, Doug Stafford, Alan Wiseman

Members Absent:

Marija Gajdardziska-Josifovska (ex officio), Victoria Moerchen

Guests:

Carla Durand, Kathleen Koch, Kate Mollen, Kristian O'Connor, Kari Whittenberger-Keith (Office of Research)

The agenda was approved as distributed.

2. Welcome and introductions

Members introduced themselves and gave a synopsis of their research interests and roles.

3. Automatic Consent

The minutes of the May 16, 2019 meeting were approved as distributed.

4. Review Committee Charge

The committee charter was distributed to the members. Robin Mello stated that she would like the committee to focus on advocacy for research support in its advisory role this year.

5. RPAC Representative for the Graduate Faculty Committee

David DiValerio was willing to serve in this capacity.

6. Compliance needs

Mark Harris spoke about the areas of research administration involving federal and/or Board of Regents compliance, most of which fall under the purview of the Office of Research.

Grant close out. Expenditures must be reconciled with project budgets at project close, and incorrect and unallowable charges removed. Most awards have a 90-day window after the project end date to do this. Even with ongoing awards, cost transfers are a red flag and should be minimized. With the implementation of the shared services hubs (covering purchasing,

travel, and human resources), we will request that each hub identify a few individuals who will serve as contacts for grants.

Allowable costs. Grants often prohibit charges for certain items. For each new grant, the post-award area in the Office of Sponsored Programs prepares a document identifying allowable/unallowable expenses.

Effort certification. The percent effort of project personnel that is submitted in a grant proposal must be periodically verified through a reporting system. Campus compliance has significantly improved, but the process is still somewhat confusing as the reporting periods do not align with the academic year.

Export control. Most of UWM's research is exempt from export control as it is basic research with methods and results shared publicly. If you need to restrict results, it will trigger export control which may in turn involve controlled access to the research space and equipment, using computers that are not on a network, and even restricting access by nationality (certain countries are blacklisted).

Financial Conflict of Interest. Where there is overlap between personal business interests and university research roles, a financial conflict of interest management plan must be developed and filed.

Research involving human subjects or animals. Each area has its own regulations and review committees. These compliance areas fall under the Department of University Safety and Assurances within the Division of Finance and Administrative Affairs.

Outside Activities Reporting. The system used to gather this data is no longer supported and does not interface well with other administrative systems for grants. This is a concern for the next reporting cycle in spring 2020. The Division of Finance and Administrative Affairs is currently responsible for OAR.

7. New budget model – implications for research

Mark Harris gave an overview of the campus budget model that was implemented at the start of the fiscal year.

The portion of the State budget that goes to the UW System only covers fringe benefit costs and some student support. Other revenue sources for campuses to cover costs are tuition and other student fees and grant overhead.

Divisions are "taxed" approximately 35% to support central functions. At other universities this is more typically a 40-45% rate. The remaining portion of the budget is allocated to divisions based on enrollment and research metrics.

The Office of Research no longer has budget for equipment purchase matches - that resides in the schools and colleges now – but otherwise has been affected more severely by the overall decrease in State support of the universities than by the budget model. Internal research funding programs (e.g. RGI, RACAS) have seen an approximately 50% cut over the past five years. There will be additional cuts coming with decreasing enrollment and less tuition revenue.

Other concerns are having only a two-person unit to centrally support research development, and potential loss of research data analytics if IT staff are moved to service hubs.

8. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 2:30 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Kathleen Koch