

Research Committee Minutes: 30 Sep 2002
1:30-3:00PM - 309 PIO

Members present: Clements, Damicone, Holcombe, Mokhtari, Melcher, Waller

1) Special presentation by Carol Olson, Director of the Office of Research Compliance

The office was created to facilitate research at OSU under the ever-increasing compliance regulations. The office has recently moved to 415 Whitehurst. The mission of the office is to comply with federal regulation and to avoid issues developing into litigation. The structure and staffing of the office was described in relation to the university committees for radiological safety, biosafety, institutional review board, animal care and use, and laser safety. Recent efforts in the area of biosafety have been increasingly time-consuming and office staff has been added. Recent legislation (Patriot Act, Bioterrorism Preparedness, Export Control) is intrusive an interpretation is difficult. The office's approach has been to inform faculty about regulations and to transfer responsibilities of compliance to them. Because fines and/or imprisonment back these new laws, the committee felt efforts were needed to increase the visibility of compliance issues and regulations. Olson indicated that the Office of Research Compliance web page contains pertinent information. Committee members agreed that the web page was effective, but it was difficult to find. The committee decided to facilitate web page access through PIO.

2) Old business

An update on the status of the Copyright Policy recommendation before Administration – The policy was approved by Faculty Council in early 2001 and a recommendation has been before administration since then. The recommendation was approved by the Dean's council and OSU Administration, but has been under legal review for over six months. The tone of the returned review by OSU Legal Council was that of questioning the need for a new policy at OSU. The major modifications of the recommendation requested by Legal Council were to:

- 1) exclude the OKC and Okmulgee campuses
- 2) exclude non-faculty staff
- 3) modify language surrounding copyright of University works
- 4) change the "non-centralized" approval through unit administrators to "centralized" one using deans and tech transfer office

- 5) modify the proposed division of royalties so that the University would recoup all direct costs first

Joe Alexander held a meeting with authors of the proposed policy (Rick Bost, Jim Breazile, Carol Olson) and Faculty Council Reps (Ed Lawry, John Damicone) to discuss the suggested modifications. The faculty response to the proposed legal review was that legal council was attempting to set policy rather than addressing specific legal questions contained in the recommendation. Revising the recommendation as suggested by Legal Council would in effect make the recommendation moot and return OSU to its current, restrictive policy unlike those of many peer institutions. Faculty pointed out that a more permissive policy would provide creative incentive that would benefit the University as a whole. Therefore, Faculty Council awaits action by President Halligan on the proposed Copyright Policy recommendation.

3) New business

Research Professorship – The Vice President for Research has asked the Research Committee to revisit the creation of a Research Professorship track that would permit title and advancement to non-tenure-track faculty whose primary mission is research. Salaries of such faculty come from external grant support. Rational for creation of this faculty line would be to increase research productivity during times of dwindling state support. Previous discussions on this request in Faculty Council led to the creation of the Research Scientist position in the faculty handbook. After a brief discussion, the committee decided to further study the request and to ask Joe Alexander to compile data on numbers of such faculty and their impact on research productivity at peer institutions.

Research Infrastructure – Ulrich Melcher reported that he had compiled a list of service facilities that serve multiple academic units and presented a brief survey to gauge sources and levels of support, to identify existing barriers to effectively servicing clients, and provide suggestions for improving services. The committee was asked to review the survey and offer suggestion prior to its implementation.