

**University of North Dakota  
Research Council Meeting  
Date: Friday, August 24, 2007  
Time: 3:05 - 5:00 p.m.  
River Valley Room, Memorial Union  
Minutes**

Members in Attendance: Harmon Abrahamson, Joey Benoit, Alice Brekke, Gerald Combs, Mark Hoffmann, Linda Hurst-Torgerson, Jon Jackson, Gary E. Johnson, Glenda Lindseth, Steven Light, Peter Meberg, Barry Milavetz, Charles Moretti, Eric Murphy, Leon Osborne, David Schmidt, Richard Schultz, Mary Ann Sens, Klaus Thiessen, and John Watson.

Members Absent: Julie Anderson, Bishu Bandyopadhyay, Holly Brown-Borg, Sharon Carson, Rick Duquette, Tom Erickson, Bob Gallager, Gerald Groenewold, Tom Hill, Kristin Hillman, William T. Johnson, Art Jones, Jim Petell, Kathryn Rand, George Seielstad, Wilbur Stolt, Mary Wakefield, Greg Weisenstein, Kara Wettersten, and H. David Wilson.

Others Present: Randy Eken (for Dean Wilson), Turk Rhen, Diane Darland (GPB), and Dorette Kerian (Northern Tier).

Dr. Johnson called the meeting to order at 3:11 p.m. He welcomed URC members to the new academic year.

- I. Approval of the minutes: Dr. Mary Ann Sens moved to accept the April 20, 2007 minutes, seconded by Dr. Gerald Combs. The minutes were unanimously approved by the Council.
- II. Announcements: Dr. Johnson announced that five UND Center of Excellence Proposals have been submitted. He indicated that minor comments have been received back and the final proposals will be due in Bismarck on August 31, 2007. He went on to say only five proposals were allowed to go forward from UND. He stated that there was a total of \$30M in requests state-wide, of which something slightly over \$16M was UND, all competing for a \$10M state COE budget.

Dr. Johnson also announced that by invitation from Senator Byron Dorgan four federal national laboratory directors, one each from the Argonne National Laboratory; the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory; the Oak Ridge National Laboratory; and the National Energy Technology Laboratory, were brought to North Dakota on August 14, 2007, to tour the research facilities both at NDSU and UND. Each campus had a limited amount of time (three hours) to showcase their research. A press conference was held at the Energy and Environmental Research Center (EERC) followed by tours at the EERC and the School of Engineering and Mines, with participation by the John D. Odegard School of Aerospace Sciences.

III. Reports:

- A. Sponsored Awards YTD: Dr. Milavetz reported a record high of \$89M in awards for fiscal year 2007. He stated that it is too early in the fiscal year to project numbers for fy08.
- B. Grants & Contracts Expenditures YTD: Mr. Schmidt stated that although the numbers are still being collected from various sources, awards for fiscal year 2007 should reach the \$100M mark or slightly higher. He reported that expenditures for July were up slightly from this time last year.
- C. EPSCoR: Dr. Johnson reported that three UND students received Graduate Student Research Assistantship awards, eight UND students received Advanced Undergraduate Research Awards, and five UND students received Doctoral Dissertation Assistantship Program awards. He also reported that of the six state-wide DEPSOR pre-proposals submitted in June, three would be forwarded. The one proposal from UND was eliminated in the external review and would not be sent forward. Dr. Johnson reported that three reviewers will be on campus September 17 to review six UND new faculty start-up proposals requesting funding for seven tenure-track research positions. Dr. Johnson indicated that the current ND EPSCoR proposal ends on April 30, 2008. The new request for proposal expected to be out in July has yet to be issued and has been delayed until sometime in September. It will have a 90 day response time once issued. Dr. Johnson informed the Council that Dr. Ed Galindo the new NSF EPSCoR Program Director for North Dakota made a visit to NDSU on July 23, 2007. Dr. Galindo comes to NSF on a two-year assignment from the University of Idaho Aquaculture Research Institute where he is the Interim Director for the Natural Resources Tribal Cooperative and Associate Director for the American Indian Education in Science. Dr. Johnson also informed the Council that the ND/SD EPSCoR 6<sup>th</sup> Biennial Joint Conference will be held at NDSU on Friday, September 7, 2007. The keynote speaker will be Dave Snyder, Executive Director, SD Science and Technology Authority. Dr. Johnson went on to say that the Deep Underground Science and Engineering Laboratory (DUSEL) NSF award has been given to South Dakota.
- D. IP Report: Dr. Johnson reported in Dr. Petell's absence and gave a summary of the intellectual property growth over the past five years indicating that there have been 53 disclosures and 32 US patents and trade-marks filed in the last three years. He also shared information which showed the diversity of invention disclosures and how it has changed. He also reported that the ground next to the Hilton Garden Inn has been broken for the REAC building and construction is under way.
- E. CRC: Dr. Schultz reported that a "hands-on" computer use course is being developed.
- F. Northern Tier Up-date: Dorette Kerian announced that Lynn Kubeck is the new Chief Information Officer at UND, and she has taken on the Northern Tier Project responsibilities. Dorette informed the Council that the east/west connection is moving ahead and equipment has been purchased for that portion of the project. An RFI has been issued for the north/south portion after which the responses will be evaluated and discussion with a vendor will take place. Completion dates for the east/west portion is slated for January of 2008 and the north/south phase for July,

2008 is tentative.

- G. GPB Up-date: Dr Darland up-dated the Council on the GPB committee activities. She indicated that the last meeting was held on May 23, 2007 with Dr. Turk Rhen from the Department of Biology speaking on, "Comparative Functional Genomics of Sex Determination in Amniotes". She also announced a new Biology faculty member hire in the area of Genomics. He is Dr. Steven Ralph, and he will teach a genomics course starting with the spring semester. Dr. Darland also reported that a proposal involving collaborative effort by senior and junior investigators at UND and NDSU was submitted to ND EPSCoR for consideration in the next proposal competition. Drs. Brown-Borg, Rhen and Ralph are the UND participants on this proposal. Dr. Darland also announced that there are three GPB related courses now available at UND.

IV. Old Business:

- A. Proposed Policy for tracking Co-PI and Multi-Investigator Grant Proposals: Dr. Milavetz indicated that the collaborative research effort document was presented to the Council of Deans and was approved. It will now be sent to President Kupchella for final approval.
- B. "Acceptance of an External Award" Form: Given the concerns that have been voiced by URC members, Dr. Milavetz indicated that additional review is warranted and asked the Council for permission to appoint a sub-committee to work on improving the external award acceptance document. There were no objections from the URC members.

V. New Business:

- A. Foundation Database Status: Dr. Milavetz explained that the foundation database was a searchable database that used key words to access the system for possible agencies with research funding available. He indicated that the College of Nursing will conduct a training program for representatives from all areas on campus. If the program does not get good use, it will be suspended after the three-year trial period.
- B. F&A Consultant Status Report: Alice Brekke reported that four vendors submitted proposals in response to an RFP for the F&A consultant project. She indicated that Huron was awarded the contract for phase one. Representatives from Huron were on campus in late July and would be back in late August to visit with several departments such as Biology, the Medical School and the EERC regarding space related data. Alice indicated that we are at the cap for recovering the administrative rate, however, there is potential in the facilities portion. Currently Huron is in a fact finding stage to provide recommendations which will then be used for institutional discussion. Ms. Brekke indicated that the remaining phases are being negotiated.
- C. New F&A Distribution Model: Alice Brekke gave a re-cap of the prior F&A distribution process and explained the process under the new model. The Council discussion that followed addressed concerns regarding the impact and consequences to departments and researchers of the transition to the new model. Glenda Lindseth made the following motion. "I move that Dr. Johnson and Alice Brekke request the President's Cabinet to examine the FY07 indirect costs for payback possibilities to

the investigators and academic units”. Dr. Jon Jackson seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously. Dr. Johnson will introduce, and Ms. Brekke will address the motion and concerns at the next President’s cabinet meeting as requested.

D. VPR Search Committee Report: Dr. Johnson reported that approximately 25 applications had been received and reviewed for the VPR position, of which six were determined as viable candidates. He went on to say that six, 30 to 40 minute, video interviews were conducted and that three candidates would be on campus starting September 11. He indicated that agendas were being set up for those candidates.

E. Matters Arising: There was no further new business.

VI. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

Minutes recorded by Rosemary R. Thue