Minutes[*]

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Senate Research Committee
Friday, May 8, 1998
433 Johnston Hall
1:00 PM

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Present: Len Kuhi, Chair; Mark Brenner, Marilyn DeLong, John Finnegan, Burle Gengenbach, Dorothy Hatsukami, Eric Klinger, Scott McConnell, Kathryn Rettig, Barb Van Drasek, WinAnn Schumi, Fay Thompson, Ed Wink, Mark Paller

Guests: Frances Lawrenz

Regrets: Phil Norcross, Bianca Conti-Fine

Absent: Robin Dittman, Karl Kistler, Albert Nakano

[In these minutes: Animal Use & Care Procedures; Grants Management Update, NIH Update, Expanded Authorities; Announcements]

The University Senate Research Committee met at 1:00 PM on Friday, May 8, 1998 in 433 Johnston Hall on the East Bank of the U of MN. The minutes from the Research Committee meeting held on Friday, April 10, 1998, distributed to committee members via e-mail prior to the meeting, were approved as written.

ANIMAL USE & CARE PROCEDURES.
Although the Research Committee approved the Animal Use & Care Procedures in principle at the April 10 meeting, the procedures were officially approved at this meeting; Kate Stuckert will inform Dick Bianco about the committee's endorsement.

GMC UPDATE.
A handout was distributed at the meeting to committee members containing materials that ORTTA has developed as part of its response to the National Institute of Health (NIH) report, including: 1) Cost Sharing; 2) Cost Transfer; and 3) Invention Reporting, and 4) Training and Education. For example, the University is trying to cut down on the amount of transfers on to a project, and wants to get account numbers assigned to projects as quickly as possible. In addition, the University has redefined time parameters for the cost transfers. The invention reporting is also addressing the needs that NIH saw in the University's corrective action plan in areas that are deficient. The handout was also distributed to the Grants Management Committee recently for information and discussion at its June meeting. Professor David Hamilton asked the Research Committee to provide comments regarding the handout when it meets next on Monday, June 15, 1998.

Professor David Hamilton provided the committee with several updates re: the Grants Management Committee, including the following:

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[*]These minutes reflect discussion and debate at a meeting of a committee of the University of Minnesota Senate or Twin Cities Campus Assembly; none of the comments, conclusions, or actions reported in these minutes reflect the views of, nor are they binding on, the Senate or Assembly, the Administration, or the Board of Regents.

- In the 1970s, the University of Minnesota was not the only institution with auditing problems, but other institutions made changes and corrected their problems while the University is still in the process of doing so.
- An oversight model was previously distributed to members of the Research Committee and has now been approved by several groups around the University. The model is in the process of being converted to words for clarification and understanding.
- The roles and responsibilities group has a new charge to propose consequences for inappropriate actions and will be meeting this afternoon to begin discussions.
- The Electronic Grants Management System (EGMS) group continues to work on the application procedure; the post-award portion will electronically set-up accounts and notify or update it as necessary with a pilot testing scheduled for July.
- The focus group management program is also piloting with various units regarding business practices related to grants; it is expanding to include additional departments.
- The training effort is not working as quickly as initially hoped.
- The committee has taken action in certain areas, such as programming on CUFS action codes to enable them to turn on and off.
- The committee is in the process of getting estimates on other forms for the EGMS.
- A purchasing card is labor intensive, but the program is now underway.
- In December '97, GMC decided ORTTA should get out of the document review business because it was viewed as inefficient; however, they continue to review documents over $500. WinAnn Schumi, Professor Hamilton, and others reviewed the situation and came up with 12 issues to consider.
- A system needs to be set up to clearly differentiate the years of a grant (i.e., every year a grant will have a different number which hopes to simplify the accounting process).
- Professor Hamilton is presenting the work of the GMC to as many faculty groups as possible; in fact, he recently presented its work to the Regents.
- An expertise database is in the final stages and an e-mail template is also being developed that will extract particular records as well as being able to incorporate the ability to suppress data when necessary; a web interface is also being developed.
- The communications plan was distributed at the meeting and Professor Hamilton asked for feedback as soon as possible; it was noted that such information should be developed in paper format as well as e-mail for those not electronically accessible.
- Concern was raised that the University is losing programmers to the private industry. It was noted that salaries for these positions should be raised if the University wants to retain qualified employees in these areas.

NIH UPDATE.
Vice President for Research Mark Brenner reported that the University is waiting to hear from NIH at this point regarding legal issues, which are driving the current discussions.

EXPANDED AUTHORITIES.
Ed Wink, ORTTA, distributed a handout to committee members at the meeting titled, "Expanded Authorities for Federal Program." The handout described the background of expanded authorities, issues, and areas of identified risks (including carryover of unexpanded funds, no cost extension, cost-related prior approvals, and transfers between budget categories).

Ed reported that the University has lost expanded authority with NIH and that it needs to have a process that is consistent and able to make decisions about administrative actions on a grant. A method of

documenting such information for later referral hopes to be developed. It would also be helpful for Ed Wink to bring this information to the Grants Management Committee for discussion.

It was noted that there have been problems with faculty submitting their documentation to ORTTA late and not meeting the deadline imposed upon them. Ed will present a communications plan at the next meeting scheduled for June 15.

ANNOUNCEMENTS.
- Christine Maziar, new Vice President for Research, will attend the June 15 meeting; committee members were asked to submit questions or comments to Professor Len Kuhi, Chair, before the meeting.
- It was suggested that the Research Committee also write a letter expressing frustration to the General Counsel's Office who continues to work on the intellectual property.