Research, Scholarship & the Creative Arts Committee
February 09, 2017
427a Waterman 12:30-2:00

Present: Chris Burns (LIB), David Neiweem (CAS), Cathy Paris (Faculty Senate President), Matthew Price (CAS), Jeffrey Marshall (CEMS), Tammy Kolbe (CESS), Albert van der Vliet (COM), Rory Waterman (CAS), Beth Kirkpatrick (COM), Jessica Sheehe (GSS), Rachelle Gould (RSENR)

Absent: Dan Baker (CALS), Seth Fritz (CNHS), Daniel Hudson (EXT), Chuck Schnitzlein (Business)

Guests: Carol Zuiches, Interim Associate VP for Research Administration, Richard Galbraith, VP for Research, Cynthia Forehand, Dean Graduate College

Chair Chris Burns called the meeting to order at 12:30pm in 427a Waterman.

1. Approval of the Minutes. The minutes of January 12, 2017 were approved with a correction to the meeting date from 2016 to 2017.

2. Sponsored Programs Administration – Richard Galbraith/Carol Zuiches.
Richard Galbraith introduced Carol Zuiches as the Interim Associate VP for Research Administration, and provided an update on the search process for the permanent Associate VP for Research Administration. VP Galbraith also provided an update on the discussion around updating or replacing the InfoEd electronic research administration software system. The system being considered is called “Click” Electronic Research Administration. UVM and the UVM Medical Center would partner to purchase the system. There are many benefits to the Click system, including the ability to integrate with UVM Medical’s Prism/Epic system, and an integrated clinical trials management system. Many other Universities utilize the Click system, and UVM is reaching out to them for recommendations. Post award management would continue to utilize PeopleSoft. The cost of installing and converting the system is still unknown.
Carol Zuiches, Interim Associate VP for Research Administration, came out of retirement to fill the role at UVM. Carol provided an overview of her vision for excellent service, which includes experts in the office, and really good compliance. Some of the areas that are being addressed were recommendations from a recent study of SPA at UVM, and include:
- Exploring a better Electronic Research Administration System by talking with other institutions that have converted from InfoEd to Click.
• Adjusting salaries for SPA staff to improve recruitment and retention. SPA is now almost fully staffed for the first time in 7 years.
• Partnering with HR for managerial training for supervisors
• Improving communication to departments and colleges about their awards.
• Hiring consultants to review and recommend process improvements.
• Benchmarking with other institutions on a number of processes, including staffing, turn-around times, etc.

A Town Hall meeting is scheduled for February 28th to provide an opportunity for SPA to share information, initiatives and updates on changes and efforts they are making to processes and procedures to be more efficient, simpler and user friendly.

Richard Galbraith is forming an oversight committee for SPA. The committee will be predominately faculty. This will provide a feedback loop on the changes. Tammy Kolbe will serve on this committee.

Richard Galbraith reported that the Intellectual Property policy is under review for revisions. Cathy Paris will forward the draft to RSCA once it is received in Senate Office.

3. Creative Arts – Chris Burns reported that he and David Neiweem are considering either a survey of creative arts faculty, or a gathering of creative arts faculty, the Humanities Center, and Jim Vigoreaux to identify needs and possible ways forward to address those needs. Discussion included threshold questions and concerns about product ownership in the creative arts. Richard Galbraith noted that some of these issues are addressed in the revisions to the Intellectual Property policy. The formation of a creative arts committee was suggested.

4. Research Data Management Resolution. The ERTC endorsed the Resolution at their meeting this week. The Resolution will be on the agenda for the Faculty Senate Executive Council on February 13, and then the Faculty Senate on February 27. Richard Galbraith will be available at the Senate meeting to voice support if needed. Once passed a new committee will be established to do the work.

5. New Business. The deadline for Burack nominations is March 20th. The next RSCA meeting is March 9th, so review of nominations will be at the April meeting. Richard Galbraith asked if it is possible to nominate two people for a debate format instead of a lecture. Chris Burns will explore this idea.

The next meeting of the RSCA is scheduled for Thursday, March 9th 12:30 – 2:00 in 427a Waterman. Send agenda items to Chris Burns no later than March 2nd.

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