



Meeting Minutes
30 March 2015

Committee members present:

Brian Vander Naald (chair), Brian Buma, Chris Donar, Roxy Felkl, Kelly Jensen, Claire Ligsay, Chip McMillan, Karen Schmitt, Jan Straley, and Emily Wall

Ad-hoc member(s):

Carolyn Bergstrom (IACUC representative for UAS)

Committee members absent:

None

Guests:

None

Members emeritus:

Sanjay Pyare, David Tallmon

Discussion Items

New Business

Introductions....the group began with introductions around the table including name and role at UAS. Also at this time, the committee formally welcomed Roxy to membership in her role as Chief Budget Officer.

From the Chair

- Brian VN reports that a group of social scientists will attend a Council on Undergraduate Research (CUR) conference. The conference is primarily for social scientists, but the content is broadly applicable.
- Brian VN also reports that he would like the group and/or UAS to consider a possible undergraduate student research funding method employed by UW Eau Claire in which a student fee is collected from every enrolled student and used to build a fund for undergraduate research and creative activity opportunities.
- Brian VN and Kelly advised the members of a request from several enthusiastic students who would like to hold a presentation competition and have cash prizes. On further review, this seems to conflict with the URECA Symposium and the students will be advised to consider how their idea might work into the already-existing Symposium.

Continuing Business

Field Safety and Risk Documentation

- A draft version of the Field Safety Guidelines will be distributed by Karen at Provost Council this month. Questions remain about timing of implementation and if some policies will be implemented earlier than others. These guidelines are not yet included in the Faculty Handbook and not yet codified; still, PIs are concerned that they will be liable for adherence to these policies. At this time, PIs are not liable for guidelines not yet approved. The Provost may wish to take the draft to the UA statewide insurance company prior to any further action.



- Discussion continued around the topic of whether or not equipment from partners in a research award would be covered for loss in the grant/by UA. How do we determine this?

URECA

- Discussion centered on the hybridizing of URECA and Honors budgets and the advantages and disadvantages of doing so. Generally, the group expressed interest in understanding the distinct budgets more clearly before combining.

- Discussion also included a need to look at the timing of the application process/cycle and its benefits in the current iteration vs. a different timing/cycle. This topic is tabled for in-depth discussion at a future meeting – likely the first meeting of Fall 2015.

Announcements and/or Questions

Are non-UA students allowed to present during the UAS URECA Symposium? Discussion ensued. By consensus, the committee decided that non-UA students could present only if time slots in the schedule were still available after all UAS (or UA) students were offered opportunities.

Establish next meeting date

The group decided by consensus that the next meeting shall be held in April. Brian VN will send a Doodle Poll to establish a date and time.

Action items

- Add to Fall 2015 agenda the discussion regarding URECA application process timing/cycle (Kelly)
- Survey poll for next meeting date (Brian VN)