Meeting Minutes
Research Board

Date: 22 May 2014
Time: 1500 - 1630
Location: MAE Conference Room

Present:

Jeffrey Paduan, Dean of Research
Kevin Wood, Associate Dean of Research
Imre Balogh, MOVES
Robert Harney, SE
Claudia Luhrs, MAE
George Dinolt, Cebrowski Institute
Qing Wang, MR
Ric Romero, ECE
Mike Malley, NSA
Geoffrey Xie, CS
Pante Stanica, MA
Kevin Smith, PH

Not Present:
Frank Barrett, GPPAG
Thomas Herbers, OC/UW
Mark Nissen, IS
Mark Aparicio, Meyer Institute
David Tucker, DA
Uday Apte, GSBPP
James Newman, SSAG
Duane Davis, CAG
Johannes Roysset, OR
Wieslaw Maslowski, OC

Guests: Debora Waxer
Laura Dippold

COMMUNICATIONS

Update on IDIQ Mechanism

Kevin Wood opened the Research Board meeting with basic campus updates. The board members did not have any input for agenda item Ia. “Misc. Updates.” Kevin Wood gave a status update on the IDIQ mechanism for NPS. It is a contracting mechanism that allows for short term teaching needs to be filled quickly and efficiently. The IDIQ was dropped a few years ago, but was expected to be renewed in Fall 2014. At a recent President’s Council meeting it was noted that the IDIQ was being modified to cover a
five year period vs. three years. This action raised the dollar amount and therefore delayed the finalization further. It is now expected to be ready in April of 2015. The NSA representative noted that the three year gap, with no interim solution, has been incredibly problematic. It also seems that an interim solution, at a lower dollar value, and shorter term would have been more desirable. The decision wasn’t announced broadly until Dave Olwell sent out notes from the President’s Council.

Research Portal

There have been some issues with PAO that have caused delays in the launch. The new launch date is set for January 2015. The product will be beta tested by the Field Experimentation group and Information Sciences. Laura Dippold provided the board with a demo on the portal. Comments regarding the organization of the website are welcomed. They can be emailed to Laura Dippold at ljdippol@nps.edu.

There was some faculty concern over unfunded proposal summaries being listed. Kevin Wood notified the board that outsiders will not have access to this information. The abstracts can be edited by the PI. Having information on this site can be a great advantage in allowing the Dean of Research to gauge interests in other organizations (ie. Pentagon). There should be a good process in place for what is released. There should be levels of protection for what is released (ie. FOIA/FOUO). Laura informed the group that LifeRay is currently behind the CAS which allows information to be restricted. Kevin Wood is the lead on the portal project and will take all suggestions back to the team. Mobile support will also be available through LifeRay. The ultimate goal is to provide more organization and a better user experience.

Minimum Standards for Research Proposals

Auditability of proposals is dependent upon the quality of the proposal submitted. It is important to provide adequate details and information in a proposal. An electronic cover page has been proposed that will detail a check-list of necessary information. Often a SOW is tied with the proposal and there is a trend of not providing adequate information. Proposal information, such as the purpose of a project, people supporting and how time is spent should all be made clear. Personnel should be included in the budget portion, but often times the information is missing. A board member argued that if a sponsor still signs off on the proposal, why is additional info needed? Dr. Paduan notified him that the sponsors are not the fiscal managers. Another board member suggested that Deans and Chair provide additional support by reviewing the proposals more closely for missing information. The bottom line is that the process needs to be auditable. It should be clear how the funding has been utilized.

A board member noted that often things will change through the course of a research project. Someone who may have been slated originally to work 40 hours may only work 20. In that way, providing too much description can actually undermine the purpose of providing accurate information. It might be detailed, but it would not necessarily be accurate. A board member mentioned that automating the process would be helpful to
ensuring all necessary information was gained. Required fields would have to be filled out before submittal was allowed.

Dr. Paduan would like Kevin Little to talk about the issue from his perspective. He felt that there were too many inadequate SOWs, but it would be helpful to hear his vision of what is adequate. In terms of category movement, there is a great degree of flexibility without necessarily going back to the sponsor. It would be helpful to find out where the Economy Act works for other government projects between the spectrum of grants and contracts. Kevin Wood added that it would also be helpful to include a CV. Those online are often outdated. Col. McCarthy interjected that there is no need to go to the extreme ends. It’s about enacting small changes to ensure the process starts to go in the right direction.

*Research Faculty Step Awards*

Kevin Wood spoke to the Deans and Chairs to discuss issues related to the pay step process and faculty who thought the process could be unfair. The distribution model has changed so that the research faculty are as important as tenured faculty. It can be problematic to have research associates in the same promotion pool as a professor.

*Naval Research Program*

The Naval Studies Program has been retitled to the Naval Research Program. The deadline for one page expressions of interest against the topics list is 6 June 2014. A board comprised of a representative from each code will meet to select the proposals. The board is expected to meet in Washington, DC during the week of 23 June. That meeting is a topics prioritization, but not a quality assessment. Dr. Paduan mentioned that it would be useful for the Research Board to do a quality assessment of the one page statements prior to that meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 4:41PM.