Meeting Minutes
Research Board

Date: 27 February 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
Kevin Smith, PH
George Dinolt, Cebrowski Institute
Qing Wang, MR
James Newman, SSAG
Uday Apte, GSBPP
Monique Fargues, ECE

Guests:
Debora Waxer, Research Safety Office
Jeff Haferman, ITAC

Not Present:
Frank Barrett, GPPAG
Thomas Herbers, OC/UW
Mark Nissen, IS
Mark Aparicio, Meyer Institute
Wieslaw Maslowski, OC
Pante Stanica, MA
David Tucker, DA
Clay Moltz, NSA
Chris Twomey, NS/ Faculty Council
Ron Fricker, OR
Geoffrey Xie, CS
Duane Davis, CAG

COMMUNICATIONS

Dr. Paduan opened the meeting by hearing a board member’s concern related to international collaborations with India. There is a lot of pressure to help them develop proposals, but there is currently no memorandum of understanding in place. Dr. Paduan notified the board that there will be no MOU until the faculty holds a meeting where specific faculty expresses interest in collaborating on a common interest. There needs to
be some institutional service that can manage and monitor these type of collaborations to ensure the rules (ex. export control) are adhered to.

*NPS Safety and Research Safety Update*

Debora Waxer recently joined the NPS team in the Research Safety area. She is the new Research Safety department head who is coordinated with the NAVY OSHE directorate. Debora holds both a BA and MA from MIT where her focus was biochemistry and renewable energy. Debora worked at NPS from 1985-1990 and has Navy civil service experience at several other installations.

Debora gave a brief overview of the office staff and provided contact info. OSHE regulations can be both federal and state based. They are legal requirements that the Safety Office helps the faculty distill what does and does not apply to them. Non-compliance with these regulations could result in monetary fines, delayed projects, lawsuits or criminal liability for the investigator. The Navy takes the federal regulations and creates OPNAV level instructions. Information regarding those instructions was disseminated via PowerPoint. In the beginning of each instruction, there is a section entitled “Roles and Responsibilities” that can assist the PI in recognizing whether or not it applies to them.

The Radiation Program has a historical study that is ongoing. The Navy RSO department has funded an extensive contract to examine the history of usage of radiological materials at NPS. This is part of decommissioning the NPS broad scope license. RAD10 is the NAVSEA directive for radiation safety and is currently undergoing revision. The Laser Program is going well and a recent survey of all lasers was completed by Karey Yarber. Some are no longer in use and may need to be excessed. This would help streamline the program. There is no explosive safety expert at NPS, but the school gets support from San Diego. In December, there were 17 findings between Bldg. 217 and CIRPAS. Ultimately, the safety trainings will be available on ESAMS. The Safety Office also assists by reviewing proposals in the hope of identifying future needs on the front end. Please note this is not an approval process. There is only an approval process for proposals that involve hazardous materials.

The slide presentation will be sent to the Research Board after the meeting, via e-mail.

*High Performance Computer (HPC)*

Jeff Haferman joined the board to brief on the status of HPC at NPS. Every year there is some amount of funding that is needed to maintain the HPC. In addition, he requested permission to attend future Research Board meetings.

In 2007, ITAC purchased the Hamming computer from Sun Microsystems. This system was completely refreshed in the past year. The system is now state of the art and has proven to be a great campus resource. In the past, HPC was funded by either the school or ITAC with the addition of some Research recap funds. In FY14, the school declined to
include into their budget and it was to be solely funded by ITAC. Recurring costs are $290k, but staff costs are not included in that number. There are 5 GS staff members that cost approximately $800k.

There is an HPC advisory panel consisting of faculty who use HPC on campus. The committee prioritized the needs of the HPC. Jeff Haferman displayed a chart that shows the usage of HPC by those on campus. (The PowerPoint used will be made available on the Research Board website.) One suggestion was made to include any HPC usage as a line item in proposals. This would help with the overhead funding.

Dr. Paduan noted that the usage graph showed that there wasn’t a very broad distribution of usage across organizations. It would be helpful to get more HPC information to those who are not reflected in the chart. Utilization of the machine is at approximately 66% which is optimized. This is the level where things flow easily and there are no lengthy queues.

A board member questioned if classified computing can be done on the Hamming. Jeff Haferman responded that it cannot, but the STBL provides resources for classified computing. Another member questioned the availability of weekend support. Jeff Haferman informed the board that staff cannot be required to work outside normal working hours and overtime is very scarce. The staff often does monitor their e-mail and often will respond after hours, but this cannot be guaranteed as it is technically “off hours”.

Dr. Paduan informed the board that they would look at the membership rules to address Jeff Haferman’s bid to take part on the Research Board.

Research Requirements Fair

The RRF will be held on 3-5 March at the Naval Postgraduate School. Both students and faculty are invited to attend. It is a great opportunity to link the OPNAV need with research that faculty may already be engaged in and receive funding.

Indirect Policy Update

There has been movement on the status of indirect due to work by the subcommittee and Kevin Little. ADM Route will be going back to DC to discuss the topic of indirect which should also increase awareness and forward movement on the topic. N1B, Scott Lutterloh, came to campus to discuss end strength issues and indirect. He was briefed on the topic and agreed that a resolution was needed. FY15 may be a return to a percentage based system for labor and travel, but not for contracts or purchases. In the past, some groups were not subject to indirect, but the new system may be rational enough to include everyone.

PI indirect is in the formula and is still being collected at 16% and distributed at 8%. The hope is to get the additional 8% released this year. This percentage will go down next
year as indirect eligible purchases will be restricted to labor and travel. A board member pointed out that a table comparing and contrasting the changes between the two models would be helpful. The table would help show what the impact will be to the school.

Publication Page Charges

Kevin Wood gave a brief update on page charges. Gordon McCormack and Kevin Wood have been working with the contracting office and documenting this process. Kevin Wood notified the board that no other federal entity uses the formal contracting process to pay for page charges. A memo, through GSOIS, was sent to President Route highlighting that this practice is to the detriment of NPS. Patty Hirsch said that NAVSUP has tasked her to use the contracting process for page charges. Kevin Wood is working on finding the POC at NAVSUP who President Route can speak to about this issue. It is anticipated that the Research Office will continue to pay for publication page charges.

DISCUSSION

Reimbursable Proposal Contents

This topic was tabled due to time constraints. The topic consists of the idea of having a searchable proposal database that would include both funded and unfunded proposals. Some faculty expressed concern over the possibility of having their ideas poached. Their concerns were heard and there will be a lengthier forum in future where the topic can be more thoroughly discussed.

Meeting adjourned at 4:50PM.