

RESEARCH ADMINISTRATION ADVISORY COUNCIL (RAAC)
1 p.m. on Monday, September 13, 2021
via Zoom

Present:

Jeremy Alajajian	Stacy Leotta	April Schenck
Audrey Callahan	Sherry Loyd	Nikki Simmons
Stafford Farmer	Carl Mahler	Peter Szanton
Elaine Jacobs	Angelica Martins	Shanda Wirt
Rachel Ladenheim	Stephanie Sanchez-Esparragoza	

Absent:

Darlene Booker	Valerie Crickard	Mary Welsh
Vikki Cherwon	Paul Cryer	

Meeting Opening:

The meeting started at 1:02 PM.

Meeting Opening:

I. Approval of meeting minutes for 8/19/21 RAAC meeting
Peter Szanton moved to accept the minutes as submitted; the motion was seconded by Jeremy Alajajian and passed without objection.

New Business:

II. Contracting Time Updates

Nikki Simmons stated that contracting has fallen behind because the staffing of the contracting group is down by two people. Debbie Bolick will be out for the next two weeks and Valerie Crickard is helping to negotiate contracts as needed. Resumés for a temporary employee (Mario Liranzo's replacement) are being evaluated; this position is responsible for negotiating outgoing subcontracts. In addition, the manual migration of proposals and awards from NORM to Niner Research has created an unexpected burden on the pre-award and post award teams slowing down processing of awards. Responsibilities for entering information into Niner Research for migrated proposals that have received notices of award have been assigned. Peter Szanton has circulated a document specifying the information that must be manually entered into Niner Research for proposals. Contracts and/or amendments that can be completed quickly have been given priority. Dr. Tankersley stated that OneIT is making good progress on data migration with a deadline of September 30 to complete this work, but it is possible that this effort will continue into October. Niner Research will likely be subject to ongoing improvements after its initial implementation.

Stacy Leotta asked how long with NORM will remain available after all the data is migrated from into Niner Research and whether all the attachments from NORM will be imported into Niner Research. Dr. Tankersley responded that there is an effort to transfer all the information possible, but the information on the older awards do not match up well with the data structure of Niner Research.

Angelica Martins mentioned that the attachments will probably not be transferred for proposals that were not awarded, but efforts are being made to transfer attachments for awarded proposals. NORM is expected to remain available through December as will the older IRB module; Chapel Hill will not support those programs after that time. "Read" access for information in NORM will not be available after that time.

III. Recommendation for Escalation Rates for Fringe Benefits

Mr. Szanton presented data that he and Stafford Farmer had gathered regarding the average fringe benefit rates for the last five years, with health insurance and tuition broken out separately. The suggested escalation rates for fringe benefits are 0.2% for EHRA faculty and staff, 1.2% for SHRA staff, and 0% for Post Docs, Graduate Students, Undergraduate Students, Non-Enrolled Undergraduate/Graduate students, and temporary employees. Student health insurance escalation will be set at 1% and tuition escalation will be set at 2%. Dr. Tankersley asked how to present this data on the web site, and it was agreed that this would be presented as an average from the previous five years. These rates will be updated in the future; in addition Mr. Szanton will draft and circulate a memo on this subject for those sponsors who ask for documentation of escalation. Mr. Szanton moved that these rates be approved for FY2022; the motion was seconded by Jeremy Alajajian and passed without opposition.

Shanda Wirt had asked about the new F&A guidelines and how information about F&A distribution will be entered into Niner Research. Dr. Tankersley noted that the process had not yet been fully implemented and the Provost had yet to decide how F&A will be distributed to Centers that may be eligible to receive it. Eventually information about F&A distribution will be entered into Niner Research in an automated fashion. Financial Affairs has agreed to work towards distributing the F&A on a quarterly basis.

IV. R1 Commission Report and Recommendations

Dr. Tankersley has been working with 25 members of the R1 Commission for the last nine months. The Commission's final report is still in draft form and is expected to be released in early October. Dr. Tankersley is working with University Communications to determine how best to roll out the report across campus and beyond. The report will have two parts. One part will focus on where the University currently fits in the Carnegie classification system and will specify the strategies and tactics that can be taken to close gaps as we move toward R1 status. The University hope to triple its research expenditures over the next six to nine years with more training to improve the campus' culture of grant seeking. This effort is expected to result in RAAC members providing support to a broader group of researchers for a broader group of sponsors. The other part of the R1 Commission's report will identify broad "areas of excellence" in which the University expects to excel and in which the University has distinguished itself as being particularly noteworthy and having a depth of talent. The descriptions of these areas will be completed soon. The Deans of the various Colleges have already been briefed on the areas of excellence that have been identified.

V. RED Website Renovation

University Communications and RED has been working on a significant renovation of RED's website. University Communications is upgrading the "higher level" pages that it manages. As work continues on the website Dr. Tankersley wants to avoid duplication of efforts and of information. A goal for this year is to upgrade the RED website so as to avoid the need for changes to be made to the various College websites. This upgrade will likely take place after completion of the initial implementation of

Niner Research. Dr. Tankersley asked for input on improvements to design, user access, and other aspects of the website.

Ms. Leotta also asked if there would be a report on the Graduate School's funding of graduate students and Dr. Tankersley replied that it would be up to the Graduate School to make that decision but that some of the work done on incentivizing graduate students to be supported by grants will be included in the R1 commission report.

The meeting ended at 1:46 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Carl P. B. Mahler, II