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RESEARCH ADMINISTRATION ADVISORY COUNCIL (RAAC)
1 p.m. on Monday, March 7, 2022
via Zoom

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Present:

Juandra Burris	Stafford Farmer	Laura Moody
Jeremy Alajajian	Elaine Jacobs	Stephanie Sanchez-Esparragoza
Darlene Booker	Caroline Kennedy	Nikki Simmons
Vikki Cherwon	Rachel Ladenheim	Peter Szanton
Valerie Crickard	Sherry Loyd	Shanda Wirt
Jacob Falkiewicz	Carl Mahler	

Absent:

Stacy Leotta	April Schenck	Mary Welsh
Angelica Martins		

Guests:

Jeffrey McAdams	Liz Siler	Kate Dickson
Savannah Lake		

Meeting Opening:

I.	Welcome new RAAC Member:

- Juandra Burris, Business Officer, Undergraduate Education

II.	Approval of Meeting Minutes for 02/07/22 RAAC Meeting

Vikki Cherwon moved to approve the minutes as submitted; the motion was seconded by Peter Szanton and passed without objection.

Old Business:

III.	Update on Niner Research Sponsored Awards Reporting

Twelve or thirteen new reports are available via the reporting tool within Niner Research; they are available in the "Institutional Reports" section. Stafford Farmer requested that the RAAC members review these "standard" reports and provide their feedback as to additional information that might be desired. He also presented a list of reports that the ORS team hopes to make available in the near future. These reports roughly mirror the reports that were available within NORM. Shanda Wirt noted that she would send emails to some of the people within her College who frequently request information so that they could provide feedback about additional information that they may desire.

IV.	Update on Niner Research Budget Entry Requirements for Non-S2S Proposals

Ms. Wirt reported that she met with Mr. Szanton, Mr. Farmer, and Stacy Leotta to discuss entering only Total Direct Costs, indirect Costs, and Total Project Costs into non-S2S proposals in order to determine how this data might affect user fields in some reports; to date none of the reports have been adversely affected by entering only this data, but it is possible that in the

future additional analyses may be desired that would not be possible with only this limited information. Ms. Wirt proposed that further consideration be paused until Chris Krumm's former position is filled so that the full impact of only entering this limited data could be evaluated. Dr. Tankersley noted that it could be beneficial to continue considering the impacts of entering only this limited information instead of waiting until Mr. Krumm's former position is filled and to identify data that people may want to track in the future. Ms. Wirt noted that it can take a large amount of time to put detailed budget information into Niner Research, and entering that information may not be worthwhile until a grant or contract is awarded.

New Business:
V.	Conversation with Atkins Library Staff Regarding Inclusion of Publications Costs in Proposals
Mr. Szanton introduced the guests, with whom he and Mr. Farmer had met earlier regarding inclusion of the cost of publications within research agreements. Elizabeth Siler, Associate Dean for Collection Services, mentioned that the presentation was being made in order to discuss "open access" publications. Many researchers do not know how to make their publications open access or how to cover the Article Processing Charge ("APC"). APC is the cost charged to the researcher who is publishing an article; some journals have both paywalls and some sections that can be accessed if an APC has been paid. Open publishing makes the articles more freely available to everyone. Atkins Library has a small APC fund but it is quickly depleted each year. Niner Commons is the University's repository where articles can be deposited; this usually requires an agreement with the journal that publishes the article. Savannah Lake, the Digital Scholarship Coordinator, noted that the APC charge can range $200 to $5,000 but it is usually closer to the high end with an average of about $3,000. Support from the library is usually limited to $1,000. It is important for faculty to plan for these costs early in the research process so as to include moneys for these costs in the requested budget and the presenters, including Katherine Dickson, Copyright & Licensing Librarian, and Jeff McAdams, Engineering Librarian, highly recommended that the cost of open access publishing be included in grant applications. It may make sense to add a section within Niner Research for these costs in order to have people consider these costs early on in the proposal process. Requesting APC funding in the proposal should be an opt-out instead of an opt-in, according to the presenters. Many granting agencies prefer having open-access publishing and several require it. Costs for this publication can sometimes be borne by departments but this is not always the case. Once papers are made available via open access publishing it becomes much easier to use them in academic coursework. Using open access publishing can also improve the reputation of both the University and the researcher. The presenters recommended finding the APC rates of five journals and request the highest rate within Niner Research.
Mr. Szanton noted that including these charges in Niner Research would probably require a process of going through a review committee and modifying the eForms to enable this. He asked what people thought about including such charges in the Proposal Development module. Dr. Tankersley noted that many funders do allow publication costs in their budgets. Mr. Szanton noted that NIH almost always allows including such items in their budgets but that when requesting funds from other sponsors the researchers may be hesitant to include these costs. Ms. Cherwon noted that many researchers seeking small grants are hesitant to include these costs. She also stated that CHHS faculty applying for federal grants were more apt to include publication fees in their budgets. Mr. McAdams noted that the librarians can be helpful in finding journals that charge little or nothing for

open access; he added that the more popular journals usually charge the most for open-access publications. Dr. Tankersley added that some research takes years to complete and so it may be three to four years between the time when financial support is requested and when it is actually needed for publications. He suggested that it may be wise to have researchers consider these costs mid-way through the research. CHHS, Biological Sciences, Psychology, and Geography are areas from which requests for APC have been received by Atkins Library. Mr. Szanton noted that the budgets that include APC costs have those costs appear in the later years of the project. Dr. Tankersley requested data from Ms. Siler to determine where the requests for funding are coming from so that this could be considered at the next RAAC meeting.

VI.   Change in Organization Codes

Ms. Booker reported that departments have requested changes in organization codes and noted that these changes must be submitted to Financial Support Systems rather than to GCA. These changes are only made annually. Ms. Crickard explained that organization codes cannot be made in the middle of a Fiscal Year because of their impacts on the F&A cost distributions. Dr. Tankersley asked why these changes were being made and Ms. Crickard said that a faculty member might change his or her home department or there could be some other restructuring resulting in such changes. She noted that these changes should be initiated by the appropriate business officer. OneIT prefers to receive requests for all such changes by June 1 so that they can be implemented by July 1; GCA is notified when these changes are made, and these changes must be made manually within the records of individual grants. Dr. Tankersley requested that an announcement be released soon to let people know about the required timing for making organization code changes.

VII.   GCA approvals – New eGA System

GCA is seeing an increase in the number of requests for review of proposals that fund positions. GCA did not approve proposals through the eGA system before February but now approves all items that go through this system. This is a new function for GCA but should not slow down submissions, although there has currently been a slight backlog as GCA was not informed of the changes before they were implemented. These changes are only for positions funded by grants. One person must submit a proposal and then another person must approve that proposal before the requests go to GCA. Some members of GCA will receive training for using the system on Wednesday, March 9. Carolyn Kennedy noted that she is not being informed by the eGA system of these requests, so there appears to be an error in routing.

VIII.   Request for Information or Documentation

Ms. Crickard reported that there have recently been many requests from third parties for documentation of research information and that there is a formal process for requesting this information. All such requests go through Tina Dadio in Office of Legal Affairs ("OLA"). Ms. Dadio receives information from GCA and then redacts information that cannot be shared before responding to the request. Ms. Crickard asked that no information on projects funded by outside entities be provide to outside parties directly; all requests for information should be handled through OLA.

Respectfully submitted,
Carl P. B. Mahler, II