

MTU RESEARCH ADVISORY COUNCIL

April 18, 2006

11:30AM-1:00PM

Alumni Lounge MUB

MINUTES

January 20, 2006 Meeting Minutes

A request was made to have a modification to the wording in the Graduate Assistant Cost Share (GACS) presentation section of the minutes. In the last paragraph, the sentence “It was stated that we are currently lower in tuition and fringes...” needs to be changed to read, “we are currently lower in Graduate Student stipend and fringes...” Cathy Banfield will make this change to the minutes.

Minutes Approved from January 20, 2006 meeting.

Federal Audit Reports- Julie Seppala

(See handout COGR Summary of the DHHS, OIG Report :)

Julie wanted the committee to be aware that cost transfers (reallocations) are monitored for their timeliness and justifications. Stricter guidelines for cost reallocations may have to be implemented in the future, along with requests from her staff for additional information. Eight research audits were completed last year (most were NSF), and during the audits her staff was required to provide documentation for all expenditures. They had to make copies of all expenditure documentation, compile all required data, and then send it to the sponsors. There were no major findings; however, there were some problems with the retention of procurement card receipts. She then asked the committee to provide feedback on how she should communicate this to the departments. The committee stated that she should just strive to keep the departments informed on what they are required to do, whether that be through departmental meetings or correspondence.

Disclosure Statement Update-Julie Seppala

MTU is required to file a disclosure statement by June 30, 2006. A consultant will be here the week of April 24th to assist with the preparation. While here, the consultant will be visiting departments to review their use charge procedures. Once the consultant has concluded his review, he will assist us with our disclosure statement.

BOC Report-David Reed

(See BOC handouts)

- Research funding and contracts have increased 26% for the first 9 months of 2005 compared to that of 2006
- Fed awards up 40% compared to 2005.

Expenditures

Research expenditures are up 4%, however subcontracts and capital equipment could be causing the fluctuation. Research Accounting and Research and Sponsored Programs staff are analyzing the figures to see what is causing the fluctuation.