

MTU RESEARCH ADVISORY COUNCIL

January 20, 2006
9:30AM-11:00AM
Alumni Lounge MUB

MINUTES

Minutes Approved from October, 2005 meeting.

(No meetings were held during November and December 2005).

New Administrator of Research Enhancement

Dave Reed introduced Peter Larsen, Administrator of Research Enhancement to the RAC Committee. Peter will be helping faculty, staff, and students to obtain funding. He will also be assisting Graduate Students with their fellowship proposals. Peter can is here to assist everyone, from new faculty with a first time proposal to senior faculty trying to obtain large funding proposals. You can reach Pete at 487-2906 or palarsen@mtu.edu.

Graduate Assistant Cost Share (GACS) presentation - Jackie Huntoon:

See Handouts.

The GACS program is severely in debt (see handouts). In order to get the program back on track there will need to be several changes.

Please see handout [Guidelines for Graduate Assistant Cost Share \(GACS\)](#).

There was some discussion among the committee regarding Assistant Professors, and the amount of support they should receive. Assistant professors seem to be firmly convinced that the Department Chairs are not assisting them; however, assistant professors need to be on panels so that they can gain an understanding and hence help themselves. It was also noted that some assistant professors may be getting too much support, and therefore do not have to go out and “hustle”. Although MTU needs to assist faculty, the faculty also need to get involved and be participants. Without start-up funds, faculty will not be inclined to come to our university.

The Graduate School will be looking at all cost share requests on a case-by-case basis, but would like the university community to know that they are limited in funds. Assistant professors will be encouraged to develop their own independent proposals instead of being a Co-PI on a professors proposal. By being the lead PI, they will receive cost share for one student. Cost share will only be given to an assistant professor who is a Co-PI if the student is working directly with the assistant professor.

There was also some discussion on whether or not MTU is approaching pricing ourselves out of the market. It was stated that we are currently lower in tuition and fringes then other universities. Dave Reed will provide the committee with some cost comparison data.

See Email to RAC from Dave on 1/20/06 Proposal Cost Comparisons.

Review of Fiscal Year 2006 2ND Quarter Research Data

See Handout

There was an increase in award dollars driven by DOD and NSF. The industrial economic recovery also assisted the numbers. We are expecting another two million from the DOD by February 1, 2006. The bottom line being that research dollars coming in are up substantially, thus driving MTU towards \$40million for FY 06. Federal dollars are expected to increase as the year continues, and research activity is up. All of this is a positive reflection on research staff, during this time of federal budget decline. Dave will be presenting these positive points to the Board of Control at the February 24, 2006 meeting.

Other Financial Handouts Distributed: FY 2005 year-end report & FY 2006 1st quarter.