

**MTU RESEARCH ADVISORY COUNCIL (RAC)**  
**September 23, 2005 Meeting**

**MINUTES**

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**BOARD OF CONTROL INFORMATION**

A copy of Dave Reed's Board of Control Presentation was given to the members. This annual report summarizes fiscal year 2005. Dave gave a brief overview of the slides. If anyone from the committee would like a color copy of this data, please contact Cathy.

Action: It was suggested that Dave could put his BOC presentation on the web.

**VICE PRESIDENT FOR RESEARCH NEWSLETTER**

The remaining agenda items were articles in the September 2005 issue of the Vice President for Research Newsletter, which was handed out at the meeting. Additional copies can be obtained online at: <http://www.admin.mtu.edu/research/vpr/nwsltrs/Newsletter0905.pdf>

**NSF PROMISES CLOSER GRANT MONITORING**

Agencies are becoming more proactive in late technical report findings. New Proposals for MTU can be stopped at the agency even if the CO-PI who is in violation of a late technical report is at another institution. A new electronic proposal submission website is being utilized, grants.gov. In order for grants.gov to become the exclusive electronic submission site, 14 agencies will need to cooperate.

Action: Once grants.gov is the exclusive submission point, Research and Sponsored Programs will provide training, and hold presentations for departments.

**PLAYING IT SAFE WITH RESEARCH RISK**

Chronicle of Higher Education handout. See article in newsletter for link. Growth in NIH (National Institute of Health) funding is contributing to our need for upgrading our research compliance standards.

Action: Joanne Polzien is working on posting full training sessions on the web for PI's and Grads. Joanne is also doing training in classes, and will be teaching a 500 level graduate course on Responsible Conduct of Research during summer semester. NIH monitors our compliance even closer now that we are receiving more NIH funding.

**CLARIFICATION OF CHANGES IN ALLOWABLE COSTS**

An allowable cost committee met for the past six months to review our policies and the A-21 regulations. A new list of allowable costs is posted on the web, see newsletter article for website link. The impact that these changes would create was also investigated. Julie Seppala of Research Accounting completed an estimate based on FY 05 expenditures that approximately \$87,000 of expenditures was charged last year that would be unallowable this year due to the changes. Use of property for two different sponsors needs to be fully disclosed during the proposal process. Allowability varies by sponsor. Some of the now unallowable expenditures will need to be covered by the department. Dave Reed stated that the overhead rate approval process would be analyzed in the near future.

A new committee headed by Tom Van Dam is reviewing telecom and IT related charges across campus. Members should contact Tom Van Dam with their concerns. This fiscal year should bring about changes in the distribution of budget money to the departments for FY 2007.

## **NEW FRINGE BENEFIT AND F&A RATES**

There was an increase in the graduate student fringe benefit rate due to the increased cost of health insurance, see newsletter for new rates and details. Dave Reed stated that the Grad Students have expressed an interest in getting on a fixed percentage scale and working on raising the stipend levels.

## **KEEP YOUR RESEARCH RECORDS FOR SEVEN YEARS**

See newsletter article.

## **C<sup>2</sup>E<sup>2</sup> CALL FOR PROPOSALS**

See newsletter article.

## **FACULTY SCHOLARSHIP GRANT**

See newsletter article.

## **STAFF AND DEPARTMENTAL CHANGES & NEW STAFF**

See newsletter article.