

The UAF Faculty Senate passed the following at Meeting #215, May 2, 2016 (with one friendly amendment to grammar in first line of Rationale section):

RESOLUTION:

WHEREAS research, service, and other activities funded through external grants and contracts represent a significant component of the University of Alaska Fairbanks' (UAF's) revenue; and

WHEREAS UAF faculty are being urged by administrators to increase their sponsored activities to bring in additional external funding; and

WHEREAS preparation and submission of competitive proposals requires effective collaboration between faculty and Administrative Services; and

WHEREAS post-award administration of grants and contracts needs to be done effectively, efficiently, and in such a way to minimize the burden of management on the Principal Investigators fulfilling the award; and

WHEREAS an increase in the number of proposals, grants and contracts will increase the workload for UAF Administrative Services, exacerbating the need for efficient handling; and

WHEREAS recent policy changes enacted by the UAF Administrative Services-based Office of Grants and Contracts Administration (OGCA) regarding approval for pre-proposal submissions and removal of overhead caps on sub-awards did not follow principles of shared governance; and

WHEREAS said changes will likely disincentivize proposal writing and lead to a reduction in the competitiveness of those proposals submitted; and

WHEREAS recent public communications from OGCA have highlighted the need for improved dialog between UAF faculty and OGCA; and

WHEREAS policy discussions on issues pertaining to sponsored activities conducted by faculty at UAF have been largely absent from the agenda of the Faculty Senate; and

WHEREAS the Research Advisory Committee (RAC) of the UAF Faculty Senate and the Office of the Vice Chancellor for Research (VCR) have recently met with the Vice Chancellor for Administrative Services (VCAS), the Associate Vice Chancellor for Financial Services (AVCFSS), and OGCA to discuss these matters; now

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the UAF Faculty Senate strongly urges that the Research Advisory Committee be consulted in developing policies and resolving administrative issues pertaining to research and other externally sponsored activities at UAF.

RATIONALE

- The efficient submission of proposals and effective post-award financial management are essential to sustain the UAF research enterprise.
- During the current budget crisis, it is essential that UAF represent itself to external funding

UAF also needs to improve its management of sponsored activities to retain valuable faculty members. Ideally, Principal Investigators would not be burdened with having to ensure effective University grant and contract management, but until the effectiveness of pre- and post-award processing improves, the stakes are too high for faculty to ignore.

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President, UAF Faculty Senate