

RAC Minutes 01/28/09:

**OGRD Items:**

**a. March/April Meeting Room conflict (Brenda Griffin)**

- i. There appears to be a meeting room issue for both the March and April RAC Meetings due to the meetings being moved to Wednesdays. After visiting about the conflicting uses of the Murrow rooms 52 and 53 on Wednesday with Leslie at AMS, we have decided to move the RAC meetings to the Electrical and Mechanical Engineering Building Room B-46. **We will use this room from now for all of our RAC meetings starting in February.** I will send a reminder notice again before February's meeting. **March and April's meetings are now scheduled on the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday as originally planned.**
- ii. Off campus sites will need to ensure that their respective poly-com, etc., individuals are notified of the change for any needed updates. I believe AMS will be working with those sites as well.

**b. Use of new Federal Research Terms (Brenda Griffin)**

- i. The Federal Demonstration Partnership is a cooperative initiative among 9 federal agencies and 120 institutional recipients of federal funds.
- ii. The Federal Demonstration Partnership Act has enabled "new" Terms and Conditions for most federal grant awards. These terms are actually the FDP terms we have been previously using. The FDPA liked the terms being used and have more or less adopted them for new grants. They should be very similar to what we are used to seeing.
- iii. You can find more information on this at: <http://www.thefdp.org>

**c. AFRI replaces NRI (Brenda Griffin)**

- i. In December we sent out an email notifying that the USDA NRI program is being merged into a new Agriculture and Food Research Initiative program. Please be aware of this change.
- ii. The new AFRI is authorized for more dollars to award and more topics should be considered.
- iii. More information can be found:  
[http://www.csrees.usda.gov/business/pdfs/transition\\_from\\_nri.pdf](http://www.csrees.usda.gov/business/pdfs/transition_from_nri.pdf)

**d. Benefit Rates Update (Erin Rice)**

- i. OGRD has updated our templates to reflect 2009 updates.
- ii. Faculty benefits are the only change, dropping from 30.3 to 29.4%
- iii. Rates are expected to increase but we are unsure precisely when. We will update our data as soon as we see any changes.

**e. EREX Update (Derek Brown)**

- i. OGRD released a new version of the EREX form which can be found: <http://www.ogrd.wsu.edu/forms.asp>
- ii. Changes include: Newly enabled multiple departmental contacts, easier to identify Error Check, the Abstract has returned below the attachment section and some minor cosmetic changes.
- iii. There was one minor Error Check glitch that has been corrected, but if you have any problems with the form please contact Derek Brown at 335-1672 and he can update.
- iv. **REMINDER:** Please upload approved budget spreadsheets into the EREX as they are created, not scans if at all possible. Sometimes seeing how amounts are listed on the spreadsheet itself, with formulas, etc., can be very helpful to OGRD when we submit a proposal. The latest version of our budget template is available on the OGRD website, and it has been updated with a space for you to label who has approved the budget and when. Please upload your spreadsheets with these comments.

**SPS items coming.....**