

## Research Advisor Committee Final Report 2012-2013

This has been a year of change for research at UAF, and the role of the Research Advisory Committee has tried to adapt to these changes. The committee was formed in response to the role of research management falling out of the primary effort of the Statewide Academic Council. Though UAF is the primary research university in the system, this caused the research effort to fall out of the spotlight of Statewide and Board of Regents. By providing millions in recovered funds, research enables many of the other activities going on at UA and UAF such as education, outreach, maintenance and staffing. The role of the RAC at UAF was to provide a sounding board for the Vice Chancellor of Research from the perspective of the faculty.

In 2012-2013 the RAC had f

The second development from the Regents was a request to perform a comprehensive research program evaluation. This is a daunting task, but with resources at UAF can be done and is a great opportunity for research to get the credit it deserves for helping to keep UAF and the whole UA system financially stable. In coordination with the office of the Vice Chancellor of Research, as well as the PAIR website (<http://www.uaf.edu/pair/>) much of the data can be gathered. As for a report, the plan is to create a draft over the summer, in a format that will resonate with the Board of Regents. A rough draft of 5 main points is: (1) How research is the basis for students and the educational mission (2) What value research brings to the rest of UAF (3) How is the research message getting out (4) What does research provide for the State of Alaska, and (5) Recommendations for the future to keep the research program vibrant in these economic times.

Much of this will revolve around well established metrics, however a few approaches will be taken that differ. The RAC is preparing a questionnaire for departments and colleges that will include suggestions for peer departments and colleges, rather than entire institutions. UAF is unique, and although we have a few good peer institutions, none are truly equivalent across the entire campus. We'll also look for intangible benefits, not just an accounting of funds. We'll look into and highlight research that may not have been of high dollar value, but was essential for the state by preserving and enabling Alaskan culture, and protecting Alaskan infrastructure.

Next year promises to be busy as the fruits of these labors are presented to the Administration and Regents.

Research Advisory Committee

Jon Dehn

Peter Webley