Research Council Minutes

October 7, 2026
3:30pm – 5:00pm

President's Conference Room, Montana Hall

VOTING:		NON-VOTING:
Alison Harmon	Sreekala Bajwa	Matthew Lovern
Mary Miles	Anna Tuttle	Steve Swinford/Michael Ouert
Mary Cloninger	Nicole Tuss	Terry Leist
Ron June	Jeff Heys	Beth Burroughs
Robin Gerlach	Blake Wiedenheft	Durward Sobek
Darin Boss	Eric Sproles	Ryan Knutson/
Kristen Intemann	Tracy Gatlin	Coltran Hophan-Nichols
Molly Secor Turner	James Park	Becca Belou
Maritza Espina	Mary Alice Carlson	Carl Yeoman
Doralyn Rossmann	David Nelson	Kirk Lubick
Doralyn Rossmann	Jack Weide	Quinton King
Monica Skewes		Aidan Peers
Anja Kunze		

Welcome and Introductions

MSU Research Information Items:

- FY26 State of Research and Forecast—Alison Harmon
  - The new award amount exceeded last year by about 55%
  - In the first quarter, 255 proposals were submitted, including 246 PIs and Co-PIs
  - Research Expenditures are below last year due to slower activity, but the increase in new awards is expected to support future expenditures.

- MSU Innovation Campus – Mike Veselik
  - Overview of the MSU Innovation Campus' vision and future
  - Currently supports research and industry partnerships, with plans for a new Life Sciences Research Center.
  - Please share this opportunity with those who may be interested in locating facilities or conducting research at MSUIC.

- Undergraduate Research Initiatives – Anna Tuttle
    - Update on the USP and its expanded programs.
    - Strong Undergraduate research opportunities available
    - Provide support for visiting students, including all logistics
    - The USP can help identify students for faculty and find funding opportunities.

Research Policies and Procedures:

- Restricted Research Policy—Alison Harmon
    - The Restricted Research Policy was last revised in 2023. The proposed changes focus on making the policy more supportive of faculty and students who wish to engage in classified restricted research.
    - The revised policy will be also reviewed with the Faculty Senate and University Council.

Announcements from RED:

- Research Development
    - ORD (and the broader Research Alliance) is available to meet with faculty candidates during on-campus interviews!
- Sponsored Programs
    - New PI Training October 28th
    - OSP Roundtable November 3rd
- Research Integrity & Compliance
    - Release of the U.S. Government Policy for Stopping High-Risk Life Sciences Research.
    - NIH Draft Biosafety Policy for Research Involving Biohazards – request for comments closes October 19, 2026.
    - Research Capital Asset Management Webpage developed. Guides individuals through 1) Tagging an Asset, 2) Disposal or Transfer of an Asset, and 3) Intent to Fabricate.
- Research Security
    - Training Requirements
        - NIH, DoE, USDA, & NSF require Research Security Training for Senior/Key Personnel (PI/Co-PI) prior to proposal submission; USDA extends training requirement for all individuals involved in USDA-funded projects. Training and instructions are available here: https://www.montana.edu/research/research-security/researchsecuritytraining.html
    - Federal sponsors are reviewing for undisclosed and/or high-risk foreign affiliations. USDA's rules are most strict and effectively prohibit any R&D collaborations with individuals based within a Foreign Country of Concern (China, Russia, or Iran) or any entity owned, controlled, or influenced by a Foreign Country of Concern. Collaborations with U.S.-based Chinese, Russian, or Iranian academics are still allowable, but want to assess such collaborators' affiliations with academics based in any Foreign Country of Concern.
- Resources:
    - NSF SECURE Center Risk Matrix: available here.
    - "1286 List" of "Problematic Academic Institutions": available here.

- On August 24, 2026, the Office of Foreign Assets Controls (OFAC) indefinitely suspended certain licenses under the Iranian Transactions and Sanctions Regulations. With these licenses suspended, the Iranian sanctions program effectively prohibits any direct collaboration with an Iranian academic who is NOT currently based within the U.S.

- Economic Development
  - Have begun organizing the FY2028 Federal initiatives portfolio; reaching out to PIs
- Undergraduate Research
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Other Announcements from Council members

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Research Events:

- **Research On the Road (Red Lodge)** – October 13, 2026
- **New PI Training** – Wednesday October 28th 9:30am – 12:30pm in Byker Auditorium
- **Centers, Institutes and Core Facilities Day** *"Helping All of Montana Thrive with MSU's Research Infrastructure"* – November 9, 2026, Inspiration Hall
- **MSU-UM Proposal Writing Retreat** – January 5–8, 2027, Homestake Lodge
- **994 Journeys** – Six MSU researchers will share their research stories at 4:00 pm in SUB 233
  - Sep 28th, Dr. David Miller, Mechanical & Industrial Engineering
  - Nov 2nd, Dr. Sweeney Windchief, Education (Location changed to AIH 102)
  - Jan 25th, Dr. Sharon Neufeldt, Chemistry & Biochemistry
  - Feb 8th, Dr. Diane Debinski, Ecology
  - Marc 29th, Dr. Dilpreet Bajwa, Mechanical & Industrial Engineering
  - Apr 26th, Dr. John Sheppard, Computer Science
- Learn more about each speaker https://www.montana.edu/research/events/994-journeys.html
- **Undergraduate Research-**
  - USP:
    - Nov 11—Dec 6: Spring USP portal open
    - Jan 8—Feb 14: Summer USP portal open
  - Oct 1—31: McNair Scholars application portal
  - Oct 3rd and Nov 7th: Honors Research Symposium (now open to ALL students)
  - Oct 9th—11th : MUS-wide Undergraduate Research Retreat
  - November: Most NSF REU programs open applications at this time
  - Jan 2nd: Duke STAR applications due