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CSS Research Small Committee Minutes Brief
April 12, 2023
8:30 a.m.
Via Zoom

Present Kurt Rademaker (ANP), Jay Wilson (EC), Jeremy Wilson (CJ), Jiquan Chen (GEO), Ahnalee Brincks (HDFS), Jason Moser (PSY/Chair), Peilei Fan (SPDC), Mevan Jayasinghe (HRLR), Emine Evered (HST), Soma Chaudhuri (Sociology), Christian Houle (PLS), Arianna Pikus (Graduate Student Representative), Jessica Davis (Undergraduate Student Representative), Anna Maria Santiago (CSS Dean's Office), Barbara Cernadas (CSS Dean's Office) Doug Hissong (CSS Dean's Office)

Absent   Angie Kennedy (SW),

Minutes taken by Douglas Hissong (CSS Dean's Office)

1. **Approval of the agenda**
    a. Wilson motioned to approve, seconded by Rademaker.

2. **Results of Rising Star Award**
    a. The 2023 recipient is Yijie Wang from Human Development and Family Studies.

3. **Climate Justice and Environmental Ethics Seed Grants – April review**
    a. A multi-unit college endeavor, planning a mini meeting to cover some this month.

4. **Office of Research and Strategic Initiatives updates**
    a. Santiago announced that the Office of Research and Strategic Initiatives (ORSI) is fully staffed now. With ORSI now staffed the work toward centralizing pre award in the college. A major problem right now is College PIs turning in proposal submissions that are late, at risk, or after the fact. About 40% of our submissions from the most recent from the Office of Sponsored Programs (OSP) report from August 2022-February 2023 were late, at risk, or after the fact. Reminder that none of us have signature authority for signing contracts on behalf of MSU. Moser restates that After the Fact (ATF) PDs are generated after the awards have already been made. Santiago clarifies that OSP provides these reports to all Colleges and raises awareness if there are problems. Reminder, if you receive an award that did not go through the internal process, the University and College are not obligated to accept it.
    b. ORSI has relocated to Linton Hall at least through August 2023. All of our communications with CSS researchers are via email, Teams, and/or Zoom – no phone service at our temporary location.

5. **College level proposal submission policies – discussion re: updates**
    a. Rademaker question: is there a link or guidance I can share with my unit?

b. Santiago notes that both the College and OSP have deadlines and policies and procedures for proposal submissions. During April/May, Anthropology is shifting pre-award to ORSI. Economics will be shifting to ORSI soon. Remember that if you want to submit a proposal, let us know as soon as you can. We need to plan out that time. Post-award support is currently available for some units on a trial basis. The Dean has said if the unit wants ORSI to manage post-award support, they need to have ORSI do pre-award support as well. Responding to Rademaker's question about sharing information with faculty members, ORSI staff will be coming in to talk with the unit's faculty.

c. Moser – Is there a designated point person each time for a faculty member? Unit? Santiago mentions that no that is not case, we are looking to identify who is the most knowledgeable for a specific proposal. On the other hand, post-award support will be overseen by the same person assigned to the grant.

d. PIs need to understand and then respond to queries and timelines knowing that proposal submission deadlines are strict. If a PI is running behind on a submission, ORSI will prioritize the existing workload to focus on those submissions that are on time.

e. Chen asks how many days do you need? Santiago reported that 10 business days are needed to inform ORSI. OSP needs at least 3 business days before a sponsor deadline for a proposal to not be considered at risk. We would like 8 business days before they are due. Chen has noticed foundations are reducing date windows for submissions, DOE only gave two months. Santiago says that as soon as one know one knows want to attempt submitting a proposal, let staff at ORSI know and you can get another eye on it, and we will be helping you to succeed. It also means that PIs need to have their ducks in row if they want to attempt to tackle such a quick turnaround.

f. Moser shares his experience with the office and how just letting them know has enhanced his experience submitting proposals.

6. Research priorities for 2023-24 – brainstorming
    a. This matter will return on our last meeting next time May 10th.
    b. Moser had a quick question; can we center around scope? Santiago says the scope can be small or large, it varies. We discussed developing another thematic area in Behavioral Health. Wilson mentioned forecasting AI technology. Moser sees opportunities in being involved in post shooting MSU. Fan brings up our partnership with Ford Hospital.

7. Matters arising
    a. We are establishing our strong presence in Climate Justice.
    b. We are part of developing the new Engineering and Digital Innovations Center (EDIC). Our areas would be data analytics and cybersecurity.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:30 am.