Report for the Activities of the Boise State Faculty Research Committee for the 2011-2012 Academic Year

The Boise State Faculty Research Committee worked on some policies and issues suggested by the BSU Senate and developed some activities initiated by the members of the Committee.

1. We were informed that one of the policies that we have to discuss is the one about Intellectual property. It however, was accepted without our discussion because of a time conflict.

2. We discussed twice the Policy for the Office of Research Compliance. The Research Committee had some questions related to the policy and we arranged a meeting with the Director of the Research Compliance Office Judie Mayne. She answered all questions and accepted some of the suggestions made by the committee. Later we discussed again the final draft of the policy which was approved by the vote of the Research Committee.

3. One important initiative of the Research committee was to organize monthly interdisciplinary forums. They turned out to be really very interesting and useful. They gave me food for thoughts in many aspects and were base for meeting many new colleagues, understanding about their work and finding grounds for collaboration with them. Co-organizer of these forums was the Division of Sponsored Programs.

The format of the Interdisciplinary forums was the following:

- brief presentations about the topic from the perspective of panel faculty from different disciplines and discussions about prospective collaborations
- an update from Lewis-Burke LLC, (a Washington, D.C.-based firm that specializes in providing information to universities about the federal funding landscape)
- information about funding opportunities from the Office of Sponsored Programs
- a half hour or more for informal discussion and networking

The interdisciplinary forums were related to the following themes:

**February 21, 2012: Water Resources and Conservation in a Changing climate: Science, Engineering and Socioeconomic Perspectives.** Invited speakers and moderators for this forum were: David Eberle, Jim McNamara, Scott Lowe and Sridhar Vencatarana. They covered the theme of the forum from the impact of the climate change in the Treasure Valley which is important for every one living in the Valley (Vencatarana) and long term place-based environmental observations (McNamara) to the socioeconomic effects of the climate change related to strategic planning for sustainable systems (Eberle) and infrastructure projects and behavioral models (Lowe).

**March 14, 2012: Energy Production, Conservation and Efficiency:** Invited speakers and moderators for this forum were: Kevin Feris, John Gardner, Said Ahmed-Said and David Solan. They spoke on the problems of electrical energy production and specifics in this aspect for Idaho (Ahmed-Said) to advanced bio-technology for bio-energy and bio-fuels (Feris) as well as gave data about the research carried out at the Center for Advanced Energy Studies (Gardner) and what the main priorities of the Energy Policy Institute are (Solan).
April 17, 2012: Human/Technology Interface. Invited speakers and moderators for this forum were: Darryl Butt, Cecile Evans, Tony Marker and Trevor Hall. They spoke about the importance of materials and their engineering for the everyday life (Butt), and their importance in formation of prosthetics for pain reduction in medicine (Evans). T. Marker gave examples about the importance of the proper design of the materials coming in contact with humans and T. Hull spoke about the virtual contacts which the technology enables and their importance for our life.

May 2, 2012: Social Networking and Decision Management: Invited speakers and moderators for this forum were: Natalie Nelson-Marsh, Nancy Napier, Kelley Connor and John Ziker. They made analysis of the evolution of cooperation based on case study of Siberian Food-Sharing Networks (Ziker), and application of the electronic media in medicine (Connor) and decision making (Nelson-Marsh). Special interest was paid to the presentation of N. Napier about the Info Gluttony and what the electronic media are giving to us and what are we losing through their application.

All forums were very well received. The Committee was interested to get a feedback from the participants and prepared evaluation sheets which testified the high satisfaction from the forums, as well as gave idea what the interests of the audience are and how the future forums can be improved. The most important part of this material is the question if the information on the evaluation sheet can be shared with other attendees and potential collaborators. There was a positive response from all participants on this question and the Research Committee in collaboration with the Office of Sponsored Programs prepared data base which to deal as initial information for a further interdisciplinary research groups.