

Centers Check In
Tuesday, March 8, 2016
3:00-4:00 PM
225 Rapson

Attendees: Jan Batt, Jill Bezecky, Renee Cheng, Missy Collins, Stephanie Dilworth, Tom Fisher, Kathleen Harder, Holley Locher, Lin Nelson-Mayson, Richard Graves

1. Around the room updates
 - a. Renee – Received \$250k sponsored research for 11 case study buildings, which has required a lot of travel as of late.
 - b. Kathleen – Working with grad students and met with Mayo this morning regarding a potential collaboration.
 - c. Martha – Working on the MDC budget.
 - d. Lin Nelson-Mayson – 2016 is GMD's 40th anniversary year. The board is working on some related projects and graphic design students are designing posters.
 - e. Tom – Working with Ramsey County Regional Rail Line on a new rail line to White Bear Lake and with Rochester on the Destination Medication Center project. Additionally, with design thinking, the MDC is working with an adult foster care group to explore how residents want to live and the center just finished a design thinking exercise with CDC in Atlanta, GA.
 - f. Jill – Proposals are on-going on and working on effort certification.
 - g. Stephanie – Work as of late is in relation to college-wide budget cycle.
 - h. Missy – Working on CSBR budget.
 - i. Richard – CSBR is currently negotiating their yearly funding with the state. Additionally, CSBR was named, in partnership with James Wheeler, Ozayr Saloojee, Vince DeBritto, the upper Midwest Center for Resilience by AIA. The announcement will be made public tomorrow, so CSBR is drafting a press release.
 - j. Jan – Reminder that if centers need to non-renew any academic staff, they should speak with Jan.
2. **SPA Deadlines:** New deadlines are now in effect
 - a. Targeted deadlines – We should have materials to SPA 3 days in advance of targeted deadlines. We can still choose our own deadlines, though.
3. **Poster Session:** Feedback and discussion of what worked/what did not
 - a. Feedback form has gone out to participants.
 - b. In addition to those from CDeS who attended, there were colleagues from OVPR, the VP for Academic Affairs, the Imagine Fund chair, MnDRIVE, and CRAD.
 - c. It was helpful for staff members to see what faculty and researchers are working on.
 - d. Can the posters and presentations be housed somewhere for continued viewing? We are asking for participants to submit an image so that it can be posted on the web.

- e. Consider truly standardizing the format next year. 11x17 was too small.
 - f. Recommendation made to organize an evening research event with a keynote speaker, which could offer greater exposure and more interdisciplinary collaborations.
 - i. MnDrive advisory group did an event when they presented on their work and then people rotate through tables to talk about each project.
4. **Compact Request for Grants Coordinator:** Discussion of what this role could do for centers
- a. Request made to Central for this position via the Compact process, but no assurances that it will be funded. Regardless, how could this position be of use to our college?
 - b. Would it be more appropriate and beneficial for faculty to work with this person versus centers? The previous grants coordinator tended to collaborate more with individual faculty.
 - c. At a recent SPA symposium, there were grant coordinators present. Their responsibilities include meeting with PIs, helping to train them, maintaining a list of grant opportunities at the college level, writing-intensive support, etc. Recommendation made to explore other grant coordinator models to examine what position responsibilities would be most useful to CDes.
 - d. Keeping an annual calendar of grant resources/deadlines would be really helpful.
 - e. To what extent would it be appropriate and possible for this person to help externally market “pre-packaged” services to other relevant groups? For instance, could the MDC package the design thinking work they just did with the CDC and market it to other federal groups?
 - i. Conversely, could this position help market projects and work internally (i.e., a “curatorial” role, helping to connect centers with faculty)?
 - ii. Let Renee know how she can help. In the meantime, Renee will make a commitment to try and facilitate more collaboration and connections between centers and faculty via regular lunches, meetings, etc.
 - f. Request made for this person help us gain greater understanding and monitoring of our non-sponsored and external sales, in addition to sponsored funds.
 - g. Looking across the college, how can we “scoop up” a larger body of work to submit a sizable grant proposal? McKnight already funds 4 units in the University (2 of which are in CDes) and they asked us if we could work together. Better consideration of long-term proposals and trends would be helpful.
5. **Summer Funding for Students:** Any support needed to find matches?
- a. The admissions process is in full swing, with the visit program happening at the end of March. If there is a top recruit, academic units may approach the Centers to help create an attractive package for that person.
 - b. If you want a student researcher for summer, plan to advertise now.
 - c. CSBR hired the most students ever last summer, but they encountered issues with obtaining enough computers for those students. Holley and Renee can be on hand to help trouble shoot if there are related needs that accrue this summer.

- d. Of note from the MDC's work with Ramsey County, for certain public agencies, they want to have students involved so that they can sole-source the work. This project included a studio pairing.

6. Miscellaneous announcements

- a. Design at Noon sessions this spring with Richard and Tom, who will present on their Grand Challenge proposal.
 - i. More centers will be encouraged to participate next year and will be incorporated into the schedule.
 - ii. Additionally, to increase exposure of center work, we will host another roundtable meeting at one of our Centers check-ins.
- b. Request made by Richard to send a message to faculty that if they think a grant proposal would be stronger by funneling it through a Center, feel free to contact that center.
- c. Renee will connect with Anna Jursik to highlight our recent Design in Health and CSBR accolades to bring greater attention to our work.
- d. Center webpages - Shannon has been working on the R&O website and in the process she found some dead links and outdated information on center pages. Shannon will not be making those updates, but if you would like her help in combing through your webpages to flag dead links, outdated information, or things that don't make sense, let her know. Centers are also encouraged to contact Trevor's team to get in the queue with Theresa Tichich for web help.
 - i. Could a graphic design student spend the summer revamping our webpages? Perhaps the Centers could share the cost of paying this person. Renee will investigate.
- e. Request made for Shannon create a grants calendar for deadlines in Google calendar?
 - i. Center staff can send Shannon feedback on what grant deadlines should be included, but this calendar will mainly include the major/common ones. Centers are encouraged to then layer their own calendars on the grant deadlines calendar.