

Rac Minutes

3/8/7

The reason people come: *food. I think I ate a chicken salad sandwich. Very good. Not filling enough for the growing man, but if I ate to my full capacity, I'd sleep in the meeting and miss out on all the really good stuff.*

Elevators: these are out and people were stranded. *FYI- in the corner of the stairs sit unused. If you did brave the stairs, thank you for reducing the cost of health care.*

Topic 1: RAC surveys- Bob Mitchell

These were sent out to ensure that the RAC was still vital. Mitchell rec'd 6 back. Many reported they did not get survey. Mitchell to send again.

Discussion:

Does RAC do what it was designed to do- basically, a group of people gather, present a question, and the group says this is how I handled it. Do we need to do more of that?

Doesn't RAC mentoring cover that?

Should leadership change? Should speaker topics change?

Should we get back to subcommittee to investigate/ explore issues?

Suggestion: user's guide on the web. Send a note to Mitchell if you want to help get this going.

(Note: the Gentleman who left, came back and carried Karen's bags in Canada and saves her seats at each meeting is the one who I believe gets credit for this, but I do not know his name because at RAC we never introduce ourselves or say our names which makes RAC a frightening place for new people.)

To do: The RAC Survey will be sent with the minutes. Please complete it and send it back just to Mitchell, not to the whole Rac list.

Topic 2: Freezer Program

Sanjay Uchil and Carol McKissic showed us the new hyperlink that will be on the RAVEN reports for the freezer program.

Review: old days- you saw each freezer charge on FAS ledgers. *(Note, the ledger example of the old days showed people I knew. I am new. Old days are new days so old days aren't old.)*

Then, the freezer program went to the IDT system- you send over \$5K and can spend down as you go. This was great, but not good grant practice.

New System: No more Debit accounts. You'll order, supply a chartstring, it will get charged.

In April, Monthly billing begins. You'll see one amount on your RAVEN ledgers and then be able to click to the Freezer Statement!

Someone said, "freezer program trail blazes the campus." Maybe one day we will see JE's with really cool hyper links that read to explanations that make sense. I'm not sure if that's my thought or a real thought, but I wrote it out.

Discussion: how will Uchil know if an account is overspent?

Freezer program will not charge expired accounts.

Freezer program will not charge if the budget in subcode 3946 is a deficit.- or maybe not.

Consensus: Uchil/ McKissic should not have to police your grants for deficits.

Tracking: you can log in as your PI and see what she's spending.

Administrators can have access to PI's login. When setting up new access, add your name as an "also should have access" and/or email Sanjay and let him know which PI's you need access to.

Freezer folks will determine a means to add login password levels. They cannot do that overnight.

Topic 3: Buzz Merrick and RAVEN

Merrick was a no show.

Topic 4: Effort Forms

Pat (not sure of last name) reports 41% effort completed, 551 forms waiting to be certified, 1251 forms not started. Please start reviewing forms to get them certified.

March 15 is the last time to get training before the 3/23 deadline.

3/24: starts the next quarter of effort reporting.

Questions: call Pat or email effort help desk.

Topic 6: IDC agreement

No offer. UMBC got an offer, so maybe ours is close? Jamal Lewis is gone.

See you next time.