


## NEXT ARC MEETING

**Tuesday, April 15, 9:00 - Noon**

(Coffee and pastries served at 8:30)

The meeting will be held in Room 115 of the Biomedical Research Tower. This meeting will be primarily an information sharing session. But we will give working groups some time to get together too.

## HAVE YOU BEEN TO THE CARMEN ARC SITE?

Go to <http://carmen.osu.edu> and enter your OSU ID and password. On your CARMEN homepage you will see "The Office of Research" under "My Courses" and a link to "AdministrativeResearchCouncil." (You may need to expand this section by clicking on the  box next to "The Office of Research."), be sure to allow pop-ups for CARMEN.



Snow, snow, snow...

## ARC PROGRESS

The ARC Working Groups established at our last meeting have been making progress. Notes from their sessions have been posted on ARC-CARMEN. Go to the ARC page, click on "Content" in the upper horizontal navigation bar, and then choose your Working Group Meeting Notes. Try the "Discussion" or "Groups" tool if you want to post a comment for your working group or send a message to all ARC members or your group.

## CHECK OUT THE RESEARCH FOUNDATION'S ENHANCED WEB SITE

The Research Foundation Web site got a face lift recently. The new page has a crisper look and feel and is another step in giving all the Office of Research the same look and feel. We also hope that the links are a little more logical. We are continuing to update the content, however it's a never ending task! Visit the site at <http://rf.osu.edu>

## HOW TO WORK WITH INDUSTRY: SUSAN BUTTS ADDRESSES O.R.

### SYMPOSIUM

With federal funding getting tighter and the State making more demands on universities to play a larger role in economic development, faculty are becoming more and more interested in generating research projects with companies. The road to

success, however, is not all that easy, according to Susan Butts, President of the University-Industry Demonstration Partnership under the National Academies and head of External Research at Dow Chemical Company.

Dr. Butts met with administrators and faculty during her recent visit to Ohio State and made an address to the campus community at the Office of Research Symposium – "The Changing Environment for Academic Research," on February 21. A major key to successful university-industry research projects is recognizing

that companies and universities have different cultures and different needs – a good research partnership lets both parties benefit. If you missed her talk, Dr. Butts' presentation is available as a streaming video from the ORTEC website at:

<http://rf.osu.edu/training/>

Also available on this site is the first presentation of this year's OR Symposium: "Universities Rising Above the Gathering Storm: Aligning State and Federal Needs," by Howard Gobstein, VP for Research Policy at our Land Grant association in Washington, D.C., recorded last fall.

### ARC-EXEC UNDER FORMATION

We are in the process of putting together the Executive Committee of the Administrative Research Council. One aspect of ARC-Exec membership will be electing a total of four at-large representatives from among ARC members. Three of the at-large members will be from departments and one from a campus business unit. You will be receiving some information shortly by email on the nomination process.

### NSF MODIFIES COST SHARING POLICY

The America COMPETES Act called for the National Science Board, which governs the NSF, to re-examine its cost sharing policy. In order to get a stronger commitment from industry to the goals of the Act, Congress wanted them to bear some of the financial burden in funding university-industry projects. Several years ago the NSF had eliminated all cost sharing, except the statutory 1% requirement. In February, the NSB pulled together a Task Force to examine how to accomplish this mandate. Dr. Robert



McGrath, Ohio State's VP for Research, was a member of that Task Force. Based on its input, the NSB reinstated cost sharing requirements for three major programs: EPSCoR, Engineering Research Centers, Industry/University Cooperative Research Centers. Ironically, an off-shoot benefit of reinstating cost sharing on the ERC and IUCRC programs is that Ohio State would now also be eligible for matching funds from the Ohio Board of Regents, which has a special fund that can be tapped when cost sharing on federal funds is required.

### WHAT'S IN A WORD?

The Council on Governmental Relations (COGR) has suggested that the feds change the terminology referring to overhead again. First it was indirect costs. This caused problems because it sounded like the costs provided no direct support of the project, while what it really meant was that the costs were calculated "indirectly" because it is hard to say how much glow from a light bulb shines on a sponsored project. So, the terminology changed to F&A, which stands for facilities and administrative costs. Well, no one likes administrative costs – it sounds so bureaucratic and so worthy of being capped at 26%. With the explosion in compliance costs that has occurred over

the past decade because of dozens of unfunded mandates being passed on to universities, COGR has suggested we start calling overhead "Facilities and

"Compliance" costs – or F&C. They said in their recent meeting report: "The importance of a robust and responsive compliance infrastructure is a more engaging debate than a discussion on administrative overhead." That way the feds might be would be more willing to pay for it.