

2018-2019 SENATE COUNCIL ON RESEARCH & SCHOLARSHIP (SCORS) ANNUAL REPORT

Chair: Sylvain Doré PhD, FAHA

Here is a brief overview of some of the council activities and presentations. Additional details can also be found in the Minutes of the Meetings.

Repositories

Efforts have been devoted to establish various repositories to help faculty members, postdocs, and graduate and undergraduate student:

- Repository of central documents to facilitate the onboarding process of new faculty (led by Dr. Chris Hass, Associate Provost for Academic and Faculty Affairs), and for new postdocs (led by Dr. Lily Lewis, Office of Postdoctoral Affairs Director)
- Repository of grant examples. University Libraries has offered a central location at the Institutional Repository at the University of Florida (IR@UF) via University Libraries Dean Judith Russell. The Office of Research via Stephanie Gray, Director, Division of Sponsored Research, can be consulted, and The University of Florida Clinical and Translational Science Institute (CTSI) via Distinguished Teaching Scholar and Professor & Director of Clinical and Translational Science Doctoral Programs, Dr. Wayne McCormack, has coordinated a bank of NIH R-, T-, F-, and K-grants, and plans to expand to other agencies, such as DOD, AHA, NSF, etc.
- Repository of Research Equipment. Led by Michael Mahoney, Director of Research Operations and Services, a master list exists and can be updated and distributed with consideration to issues regarding how to track and verify which lab and faculty wish to opt into the equipment listing. Research centers and core labs information is also available in Dr. McCormack's toolkits (which is updated annually) and may also serve as an equipment list resource.
- Repository of UF-Sponsored Software. There is ongoing discussion with the University Libraries Committee to create such central list.

Academic Affairs

- SCORS was successful in including changes in the 2019-2020 P&T Guidelines for proper recognition of Collaborative Scholarship (e.g. Team Science): *The University recognizes that teams of investigators are responsible for many new discoveries, creative works and advancement of knowledge. Collaborative scholarship is highly valued. Authorship other than listed as first or senior author can be recognized as significant as long as a faculty member's unique contribution can be discerned. Therefore, the Chair/Director letter should address the candidate's significant contribution to distinctive collaborative scholarship.*
- Dr. Sobha Jaishankar, Assistant VP of Research Program Development, presented the results of an Office of Research Survey, and detailed a plan of action and timeline for External Funding Assistance. This was then presented at the Faculty Senate.
- Jodi Gentry, VP of Human Resources, discussed efforts being made by the Office of Human Resources to address the change in health insurance options that Postdoc Associates transitioning to Postdoc Fellow appointments experience, and a policy is being developed for both pre- and post-docs this fall.
- SCORS has made inquiries regarding decreasing required faculty training to the Faculty Senate Steering Committee and Jodi Gentry is leading a group effort to address issues and welcomes comments.
- Discussion is ongoing to establish an Online Faculty Annual Evaluation Tool that would help generate Faculty Annual Reports, and various other reports as needed. Most information would come from other central locations to assure accuracy and reduce administrative burden.
- There will be a revised process by the Office of the Provost over the summer to facilitate the "Disclosure on Outside Activities" process and to reduce and streamline required paperwork.
- Stephanie Gray also presented details and clarification about Effort Reporting, which was then presented at the Faculty Senate.
- Cathy Lebo, Assistant Provost and Director of Institutional Planning and Research, has provided updates to SCORS regarding the rollout and implementation of the "Discovery Suites". How new and

current faculty members are included, and how this effort can be integrated with previous tool such UF-VIVO, FL ExpertNet, ORCID, etc. was reviewed. One focus is to include as many faculty as possible to facilitate mentorship and research collaboration.

Various Services, Tools and Training available

- [The University of Florida Open Access Publishing \(UFOAP\) Fund](#) is still available. The fund is 'first come, first served' as long as applicants meet eligibility requirements.
- Michele Tenant, head of the Smathers' Libraries' [Academic Research Consulting & Services \(ARCS\)](#) was invited to UF's College Assemblies/Councils meeting in May to promote their services and workshops on various topics and also presented at SCORS on the topic of confidence intervals with P values and adaptive/iterative research design.
- Dr. Plato Smith presented the results from a Data Management and Curation Working Group (DMCWG) which helps with: development of data management plans; assistance with selection and deposit of data in repositories; identification of recommended data repositories; assistance with data preservation and long-term archiving; development of research data management policy and statements; and compliance with funding agencies data management and sharing requirements.
- Articles discussing predatory journals were distributed and discussed at SCORS as faculty can benefit from more information on the subject.

Others

- Discussion was held about creative ways to make sure more diverse faculty apply to the various University and Faculty Senate Committees and Councils. -The Honorary Degrees & Distinguished Awards Committee strongly encourages faculty to nominate a more diverse group during the next nomination period.
- University Libraries Dean, Judith Russell, provided an overview of the organization of and function of CHORUS which aims to make publicly funded research more accessible through its five core services of identification, discovery, access, compliance and preservation.
- Dr. Melissa Rethlefsen, Associate Dean and Fackler Director, Health Science Center Libraries, presented information on the topic of the current reproducibility crisis and the inability to confirm reproducible scientific findings.
- UF is engaged in ongoing discussions about research collaboration with foreign governments. Dr. David Norton, VP of Research, has issued a memo to provide guidance. UF is also providing computers and resources when travelling.
- In an effort to maximize use of animal tissues and minimize waste, SCORS is exploring the possibility of donating samples after an animal has been processed. This can be especially helpful for expensive aging studies or for obtaining control specimens.
- SCORS heard a presentation from the co-founders of [Assembly for Action](#), which is in search of faculty research mentors to facilitate its goal of selecting 50 Action Scholar applicants who have shown capable leadership and community service, and ultimately partnering each scholar with a local non-profit organization.
- Another SCORS presentation was 'STEMocracy: Bridging Civics and Science' which has a key goal of facilitating increased student voting, particularly for students in the STEM areas, and advocating for early voting sites on campuses.