

## RESEARCH & SCHOLARSHIP COUCIL MINUTES

Tuesday, December 10, 2019

3:30 p.m.

Grinter 264

**Present:** Ralf Remshardt, Sobha Jaishankar, Czerne Reid, Laurie Bialosky, Hannah Norton, Sylvain Doré, Cathy Lebo, and Perry Collins.

**I. Call to Order** – Hannah Norton, Chair, Research & Scholarship Council

-The meeting was called to order at 3:36 p.m.

**II. Approval of November 5, 2019 Minutes**

-The minutes were approved.

**III. SCORS Chair's Report / Faculty Senate Steering Committee Update**

-Council has met twice since the last Steering Committee meeting. Please [nominate](#) yourself or a colleague for a seat on university committee and councils. However, seats on the [five Faculty Senate Councils](#), including this one, are [open to current Faculty Senators only](#). Jamie and Matthew will rotate off this semester.

- Gary Wimsett, Assistant Vice President for Conflicts of Interest will introduce [UFOLIO \(UF Online Interest Organizer\)](#), the university's new online activities and interests reporting system and Terra DuBois, Director of Research Compliance and Global Support, will present the framework of the International Risk Assessment (IRA) piece of this tool at this Thursday's Senate meeting. The tool will facilitate disclosures for faculty and complex cases will trigger reviews by the Provost and the VP of Research. Reimbursement of childcare costs for faculty attending conferences has been discussed and at the last Senate meeting, the Faculty Senate Chair discussed the apparent discrepancy between UF Directives and the policies of grant-funding agencies, such as the National Institutes of Health (NIH), for reimbursement of childcare costs when traveling on official business.

-On Monday, Council chair attended a faculty leaders' focus group with consultants of Simpson & Scarborough as part of positioning and branding effort for UF. How UF is viewed from state and national perspectives was explored.

**Discovery Suites Update** - Cathy J. Lebo, Director, Institutional Planning and Research

-Concern has been raised regarding the inability to locate and access UF's Discovery Suites tool online. A google search yields the Senate presentation introducing the tool but not a live link to the actual tool. The link to "Discovery Suite" is:

<https://ufl.discovery.academicanalytics.com/> and is embedded in a pdf describing the "Discovery Suite". The tool's description reads: UF Faculty Research Expertise is an online portal into the research portfolio of the University of Florida, enabling industry

leaders, community partners, students, and faculty to easily explore research areas, collaborations, faculty profiles and works, and to identify opportunities for partnerships in future innovation. Search is completed by faculty name or research topic.

-The naming of and thus the navigation to the Discovery Suites tool needs another look, particularly to ensure a more navigable home page.

-Licensing restricts some access options; there is a need to promote the landing page for increased access to the tool.

-Dr. Lebo is reviewing her administrative access rights to Discovery Suites.

- Researchers should forward their updated bios to Dr. Lebo, who is working with deans to add faculty abstracts. Another consideration is identifying the best information to include on the researcher page display (i.e. if it should contain just a bio blurb or abstract or summary or relevant hyperlinks etc.)

-Council reviewed the screens/views available for the tool, including: ([Discovery Suites](#)).

-A portion of the newly hired faculty are in the database and can be found/displayed in the internal view.

-The external view is under construction and aims to integrate as many researchers as possible and capture their scholarly activity. Search terms need to be clarified/sharpened.

-Dr. Lebo shared these documents which reflect that UF is competing at an elite/high level: ([NSF HERD](#)) ([Press](#))

-Dr. Lebo welcomes comments and feedback on ways to measure the impact of how the tool is used.

-The tool's benefit to undergraduate students was also discussed.

#### IV. **'Predatory' Publishing** - Perry Collins, Scholarly Communications Librarian, Digital Partnerships & Strategies, George Smathers Libraries

Perry Collins summarized primary points to consider to avoid predatory publishing:

##### **What do we mean by predatory?**

Predatory journals—sometimes known by other terms such as deceptive or fraudulent—are journals that intentionally mislead potential authors, editorial board members, etc. Typically, such journals will charge fees for publication without fulfilling promised obligations such as peer review. They may fabricate readership or impact metrics, or claim specific individuals on their editorial boards who have not actually agreed to join.

##### **What do we *not* mean by predatory?**

Not all journals that charge fees are predatory, but they should demonstrate transparency about those fees by publishing relevant information available to authors before submission. We should also be careful not to characterize all open access publishing as predatory; there are thousands of legitimate journals dedicated to making peer-reviewed scholarship publicly accessible. It's crucial to remember that

there is a spectrum of best practice in publishing, and norms may vary according to discipline, geography, and audience. A specific journal may not be the best venue for your research—you may find the research to be of poor quality or you may doubt whether it will reach your intended audience—but that does not mean it is necessarily predatory or trying to defraud authors.

#### **How to decide if a journal is predatory?**

The Libraries recommend against using journal blacklists, especially without clear criteria for why specific publications are included. Instead, if there is any doubt we recommend turning to a resource such as [Think.Check.Submit](#), which offers clear guidance and factors to consider on a journal-by-journal basis. You can also check to see if a journal is included in the [Directory of Open Access Journals](#), which undertakes careful review of journal policies and includes about 14,000 titles, or if the publisher demonstrates adherence to the [Committee on Publication Ethics \(COPE\) guidelines](#).

-Please contact Scholarly Communications Librarian Perry Collins ([perrycollins@ufl.edu](mailto:perrycollins@ufl.edu)) or your unit's [Subject Specialist Librarian](#) to help guard against predatory publishers, conferences, etc.

-Council suggests inviting Perry Collins to Senate to share this information.

#### **V. New Business**

-Taking into consideration the UF class schedule, the Faculty Senate Secretary will forward a meeting poll to council members to review the established spring meeting dates and ensure they are still optimal for the majority of council. Spring dates will either be re-confirmed via email or new dates will be established and emailed to council members.

#### **VI. Administrative Liaison/Contributing Committee Chairs Updates**

University Libraries - Czerne Reid/Judith Russell

-University Libraries continue to work on an open access policy to provide guidance and clarification to faculty publication rights. To avoid confusion with the 'open access' policy pertaining to open access journals, the libraries would like to rename this initiative, which could help reframe the intended narrative.

-Open access funds were released from the Provost's Office earlier than the typical January timeline. Discussion continues on the fund's maintenance and scope. Scholarly Publications Librarian Perry Collins is surveying participants to obtain an accurate sense of the need within areas and educate those unaware of open access fund opportunities. Some colleges may be interested in assisting with the fund but further usage and funding scrutiny is needed.

#### **VII. Adjournment**

-The meeting was adjourned at 4:58 p.m.