

RESEARCH & SCHOLARSHIP COUCIL MINUTES

Tuesday, March 10, 2020

3:30 p.m.

Grinter 264

Present: Michael Mahoney, Matthew Gurka, Czerne Reid, Laurie Bialosky, Hannah Norton, Sylvain Doré, Ray Thomas, Judith Russell, and James Collins.

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

-The meeting was called to order at 3:32 p.m.

II. Approval of December 12, 2020 Minutes

-The minutes were approved.

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

-In reply to an earlier inquiry about the proposed research building adjacent the Harrell Medical Education Building, it was clarified that it will house an extension to the current animal facilities and several floors for research although specific occupants have not yet been identified.

-As a follow up to council's inquiry regarding the return on investment for the pre-eminence faculty hirings and initiatives, council chair shared the Budget Council February minutes:

-Regarding the self-sustainability of the pre-eminence initiative, the Faculty Senate Chair met with the Provost, who relayed that the program has been successful. Senior faculty recruited under the pre-eminence initiative had brought with them significant funding which appears to have persisted since transitioning to UF with no significant decline in the funding from the top principal investigators. Research dollars have increased, and the program is likely a main factor in UF's rise in national rankings.

-Additionally, the Research and Scholarship Council noted that the Provost manages these lines and ones not used by the colleges return to the Provost's Office.

-The University Libraries will likely postpone the 'Research Reproducibility 2020 Conference : Educating for Reproducibility: Pathways to Research Integrity' conference due to institutional restrictions on speaker travel by speakers' institutions. The symposium is funded by the National Science Foundation. Please register at and view:

<http://reg.conferences.dce.ufl.edu/ERPRI2020/1604> to get the latest symposium updates.

This symposium is more focused on the science as opposed to the recent Provost's symposium focus on trust in research.

-Melissa L. Rethlefsen, Associate Dean, George A. Smathers Libraries & Fackler Director, Health Science Center Libraries will present to Faculty Senate in May. A focus will be on the reproducibility of research in graduate education, postdoctoral scholarship, and as a focus of

faculty instruction on this topic. Faculty might benefit from hearing about detailing research designs and publishing and reporting. The Center for Open Science was mentioned as a platform which encourages the posting of protocols and may have some time-stamping.

-Concerns related to this topic was discussed as it pertains to both the Physical Sciences and to the Health Sciences was discussed.

-University Libraries will have a new reproducibility librarian beginning May 1st.

IV. Council Meeting Schedule

-Council established a Tuesday, May 12th meeting. This will be added to the online meetings calendar and an email notification will be forwarded to council member.

-Council will invite Chief Diversity Officer Antonio Farias to provide an overview of the STEM faculty diversity/Aspire Alliance initiative in May or the Fall. He will also be asked to address academic freedom issues.

V. New Business-IACUC Online Protocol

-Michael Mahoney, Director of Research Operations and discussed the selection of and plans for a new online Institutional Animal Care & Use Committee (IACUC) protocol submission system. (IACUC reviews research protocols and conducts evaluations of the institution's animal care and use, which includes the results of inspections of facilities that are required by law.) Online IACUC product upgrades and vendor offerings have been discussed by a number of institutions. Following a great deal of benchmarking, the consensus from staff, committee members, and researchers is that The Solution product is the best choice moving forward. This platform is less customizable, but the university wants to stay as close to the upgraded path as possible.

-Training of researchers will be needed; building blocks will be different and contained within the training libraries. When a protocol is created, researchers can build multiple teams. The new system is user friendly and will provide consistency. It is also expected to aid the transition for researchers arriving from other institutions.

-Onboarding with the vendor began last summer and was completed in the fall. IT security assessments of the vendor has been conducted and has slowed the process a bit. The target platform release date is July 1 for a soft roll out. If the rollout goes well, it will be mandatory for all new researchers in October.

-This will apply only to new research. IACUC approvals cover a three-year period, so when a study comes up for renewal, it will then move to the new system. Existing research projects will not transition to the new system but will stay in the old system.

-Communication with the PI's will begin once the three month trial period of the soft roll out is completed; messaging will then ramp up and will target departmental meetings, university research centers, etc.

-Mr. Mahoney is available and in agreement with council's recommendation that he speak to Faculty Senate in September.

VI. Old Business-Electronic Lab Notebook Update

-Dean Russel and Melissa L. Rethlefsen met with CIO Elias Eldayrie, Erik Deumens, Director of UF Research Computing & his staff agreed to actively proceed on a proposal to share with VP of Research David Norton. There is general agreement that UF needs to have a campus-wide offering; some might not wish to change their platform so it would not be mandatory. Eric and Melissa are gathering data now. COVID-19 may impact budget options as these are all proprietary system and is not a one-time cost, so there can be cost escalation issues. Cost models were discussed. Academic Technology Director, Mark McCallister, UFIT Associate Director, Ryan Yang, Philip Chase, CTS IT Assistant Director, and members of [The Research Computing Advisory Committee](#) and the [Clinical Translational Science IT subcommittee](#) including: Plato Smith, Data Management Librarian, Chris Barnes, Director of the Clinical Translational Science - IT (CTS), Erik Deumens, Director of UF Research Computing, and are looking into an appropriate cost and service model. They are interested in gathering more information from current users regarding what their user experience is, how this assists faculty productivity, and what peer institutes are doing. They are also looking at generic tools like dropbox, oneNote, etc. A survey was completed about three years ago.

VII. Administrative Liaison/Contributing Committee Chairs Updates

University Libraries – Dean Judith Russell

-The status of the open access publishing fund was discussed, as University Libraries has just received the last of the Provost Office funding which was a four year commitment and it has now been funded for four years.

-A [UF Open Access Publishing Fund, 2017-2019 Summary](#) was shared by University Libraries. It noted awards received by college and applications declined due to budget (rather than eligibility issues). This has been shared with the college deans. A key question is if focus should be placed on graduate students, post docs, and junior faculty since they have less access to funds.

-The use of open access funds compared to publications paid for by grant funded research was discussed. The names of the top half dozen journal families were provided to the Provost for his review. The decentralized system makes funding tracking difficult.

-Dean Russell forwarded council the full set of [Open Access Funds survey questions](#) posed to the deans.

-There is general affirmation that this is good to continue but an assessment of the appropriate amount of money and target recipients needs to be made.

-Some deans may respond positively to providing matching funds, particularly in proportion to the amount of usage by units within their college.

VIII. Adjournment

-The meeting adjourned at 5:12 p.m.