

RESEARCH & SCHOLARSHIP COUNCIL MINUTES

Tuesday, November 5, 2019

3:30 p.m.

Grinter 264

Present: Matthew Gurka, Laurie Bialosky, Hannah Norton, Lily Lewis, Angelos Barmpoutis, Patrick Reakes, Sylvain Doré, Ray G. Thomas, Mustafa Ozdemir, Stephanie Gray, Terra DuBois, Suzan Alteri, and Jamie Collins.

I. **Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 3:30 p.m.

II. **Approval of October 8, 2019 Minutes**

-The minutes were approved.

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

-The Steering Committee meets later this week but has not met since the last council meeting.

-Perry Collins, Scholarly Communications Librarian in the Digital Partnerships & Strategies unit of the George Smathers Libraries, will visit council in December. Please forward any questions which you would like Perry to address to the the council chair and copy the Faculty Senate Secretary.

-In December, Director of Institutional Planning & Research, Cathy Lebo, will provide an update of the Discovery Suites initiative.

IV. **Post-doc/Student Funding Assistance - Lily Lewis, Director, Office of Postdoctoral Affairs & Academic Communications**

-Travel funding requests are often received by the Office of Postdoctoral Affairs and council brainstormed possible ways in which the university could assist students though loan offerings or grant funding:

-Matching, non-competitive award funding typically requires agreement from individual deans to match funds.

-While graduate funding is available by application, a challenge is to find new funding sources to avoid diverting money from graduate students or faculty to post doc students and find an equitable balance between these groups.

-Capped, ad-hoc funding could be done on a semester basis, allowing for an easier quantification of available money.

-[Aid-A-Gator](#) funding is a one-time grant, with no expectation of money being repaid to the university. It is appropriate only for students facing financial emergencies following major storms, or a sudden illness or family crisis. This resource is meant to aid students in imminent danger of dropping out due to an unexpected and sudden

financial set-back.

-Feedback is positive regarding steps the university has recently taken to reduce the turn-around time for required Human Resources paperwork and payments for international students. The Office of Postdoctoral Affairs & Academic Communications continues to work with UFHR on best practices to help international students during mandatory wait periods for social security cards, etc.

V. Faculty Mentorship - Susan Alteri, Chair, Welfare Council

-Welfare Council Chair, Suzan Alteri, provided council with an overview of faculty mentoring discussions held by the Welfare Council over the past two years.

-Current university mentoring resources include the University of Florida Clinical and Translational Science Institute ([CTSI](#)) [Mentor Academy](#) led by Dr. Roger Fillingim; the [UF Center for Teaching Excellence](#); and UF's institutional membership to the [National Center for Faculty Development & Diversity](#) which is free to UF faculty and whose membership was advocated through conversations with Chief Diversity Officer Antonio Farias and the Welfare Council.

-In February 2018, Welfare Council compiled and reviewed a list of [top ten public peer institutions' mentoring links](#). At UF, mentoring guidelines and requirements vary widely between colleges and units. With assistance from the (college-level) Faculty Council Chairs, the Welfare Council collected and collated mentorship guidelines and requirements within colleges. The past (Angel Kwolek-Folland) and current (Chris Hass) Associate Provost for Academic and Faculty Affairs participated in these mentoring conversations. Dr. Hass has attended numerous college Faculty Council meetings and has queried individual colleges. While mentoring guidelines will remain specific to each college to help suit needs unique to each school, efforts are now being made to place guidelines, ideally by this Spring, in one visible and central location, such as on the Office of Academic Affairs web site ([aa.ufl.edu](#)). This will facilitate a centralized google search result for UF mentoring.

-While it was agreed that the topic of mentorship is best handled in the Welfare Council, the Research and Scholarship Council provided input about specific mentoring needs of research-focused student and faculty, including the need to educate faculty about how to avoid participation in predatory conferences and journals and its negative effect on promotion and tenure opportunities.

VI. Grant Submission Processes & Policies – Hannah Norton, Chair, Research & Scholarship Council

-Council held discussion on the current grant submission process and steps taken when a grant withdrawal request is received from an investigator. A concern was raised by a faculty member about UF's digital signature requirements for grant submission, and about the contract relationship and responsibilities between the university, its researchers (PI's, Co-PI's, Co-Investigators, etc.), and external, federal funding agencies, such as the National Institutes of Health (NIH).

-UF's grant submission routing system changed in March 2015 from a paper to an electronic one. A concern about the ability of all Co-Investigators to view a grant submission during various stages of grant preparation and submission was addressed. Following discussion, council has no additional recommendations.

VII. New Business

- Faculty Senate Chair Ray Thomas raised the topic of NIH reimbursement of childcare and how UF can best accommodate families. Council discussed the apparent discrepancy between UF Directives and the policies of grant-funding agencies, such as the NIH, for reimbursement of childcare costs when traveling on official business.
- A review of current NIH language is needed for comparison to university policy.
- Funding caps and maximum amounts of what can be claimed within different allocations was discussed.
- The impact on various funding sources and possible ensuing budgetary issues are a consideration if change is made to current university policy.
- Discussion was held on various models of faculty prize money allocations, weighing university contributions of resources with that of faculty efforts, time commitments, and contributions.

VIII. Administrative Liaison/Contributing Committee Chairs Updates

University Libraries – Angelos Barmpoutis

- Open access funds were available through November for faculty, graduate and post-doc student awards, with the last committed funds from the Provost currently available. Tweaks to the application process resulted in increased support for graduate student funding last year.
- An Open Access policy initially discussed in 2012 is being revisited to help establish best faculty practices for retaining copyright options. No general timeline for implementation of a new policy has been established while University Libraries is in touch with publishers regarding university subscription access/options and general publishing practices used throughout the submission process of an article. This policy may also be renamed to provide additional clarity.

IX. Adjournment

- The meeting was adjourned at 4:55 p.m.