

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

Tuesday, September 18, 2018

3:30 p.m.

Grinter 264

Present: Matthew Gurka, Jamie Collins, Megan Newsome, Hannah Norton, Angelos Barmpoutis, Sobha Jaishankar, Mario Poceski, Laurie Bialosky, Dimitri Bourilkov and Sylvain Doré.

Absent: Ikraumuddin Aukhil, David Norton, Henry Frierson, Stephanie Gray, and Michael Mahoney.

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

I. Introductions

Council members and liaisons were introduced.

II. Approval of [May 15, 2018 Minutes](#)

The minutes were approved.

2018-19 SCORS minutes will include a list of present and absent members.

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

-The State of the University address was given by President Fuchs at the opening 2018-2019 academic year Senate meeting and presented a historical perspective of the university while looking ahead to university goals and challenges.

-UF faculty recruitment continues and about half of the 500 new faculty hires have been secured in an effort to improve teacher-student ratio and university rankings. The Provost mentioned that while the Deans have received hiring approval, the colleges have agreed to provide physical and financial support for the new hires; onboarding, space, and start-up funding of new hires will need to be addressed by deans, directors, and department chairs. The Provost also answered an inquiry about trailing spouse policies in respect to faculty recruitment.

-Cathy Lebo, Associate Provost and Director of Institutional Planning, will present Discovery Suite, a new faculty collaboration tool, at the next Senate meeting on September 27th. It will utilize grants, research, patents, publications, and related key words to connect faculty collaborators. The information is populated by a private, outside company and is being used by many other universities. Faculty are able to correct and add omitted data.

-Honorary degrees nominations are open through October 1st.

-Council Chair presented the [team science/scholarship criteria for use in promotion and tenure](#) draft. SCORS reviewed and approved this modification of what was distributed at the last council meeting. It is authored by Marian Limacher, Senior

Associate Dean for Faculty Affairs and Professional Development, College of Medicine. It addresses difficulties encountered in promotion and retention by ensuring a path to promotion based on criteria consistent between units and colleges. Council discussed why units should not pass their own standards. Consistency is needed across units because UF is so diverse. The Provost's Office expressed support of consistent standards and documentation of scholarly activities for promotion and tenure. Once completed and approved, these criteria will eventually be part of training for promotion evaluation committees across campus.

The Council Chair would like to send this updated version to college councils and Welfare Council. Please bring feedback from your department and college back to SCORS.

IV. "STEMocracy: Bridging Civics and Science."

Megan Newsome, BS

Researcher, UF Physics Department

Puffin Democracy Fellow, Andrew Goodman Foundation

Megan holds a master of physics degree and is an ambassador and fellow of the Andrew Goodman Foundation. A key goal of this organization is to facilitate early voting sites on campus and Megan was a plaintiff in a lawsuit which made this possible. At UF and at all schools nationally, students with STEM backgrounds had the lowest 2013-2016 voting turnout rate, particularly those in engineering and technology.

This organization's goal is to get as many STEM students as possible to vote, and to study why students did and didn't vote. Megan has connected with UF Student Government, employed the use of [Swampy Memes](#), and would like to survey and create a focus group for students. Another idea is to appeal to students' competitive edge by conducting a voting competition based on participation percentages of each STEM area/unit. Students will show their voting sticker to be counted in the competition.

Megan shared her research thus far, which shows faculty having a positive effect on voter participation by reminding students in the classroom of voting dates and options (such as campus or early voting accessibility for all registered Alachua County voters at the Reitz Union.)

This semester's goal is to ask faculty to please ask students in the classrooms to vote. Megan is also planning to meet with the Provost. Ideally, UF would be a case-study in how to successfully increase student voting.

Discussion was held by council and some hesitance for faculty to approach what could be construed as a political issue was expressed, as well as finding an obvious connection of this issue to a faculty (rather than student) benefit.

The Council Chair will suggest discussion at the next Steering Committee on October 11th that, on behalf of the Faculty Senate or the Senate Chair, a campus wide email could potentially be sent encouraging student and STEM student voting.

V. Open Access Publishing Fund
Hannah Norton, MS
Reference & Liaison Librarian
UF Health Science Center

Hannah Norton presented an [Open Access Publishing Fund update](#). It is funded through the Provost's Office, operates on a calendar, rather than fiscal, year basis, and was a one-time funding. The total funds paid is over \$112,000. The figures include only funds that have been fully paid out, (and not those that are already committed and encumbered, but which are not completely through the payment process.) It is expected that this funding will be offered again in January; asking the Provost for a supplement through December could be considered. This item will likely be include on tomorrow's University Libraries Committee agenda for further discussion.

VI. SCORS Topic Suggestions for 2018-19 Academic Year

SCORS topics of interest for the upcoming academic year include:

- In conjunction with the Welfare Council and Compensation Committee (in which VP of Human Resources, Jodi Gentry is a liaison for both), addressing the difference in benefits between a postdoc fellow vs. a postdoc associate.
- Discovery Suites
- Effort reporting
- Follow-up with VP of Research, David Norton's Office regarding how more competitive grant applications can be generated now that the university's major research funding goal has been obtained. Beyond submitting grants with good science, how can the Office of Research support individual units administratively? Can the Office of Research encourage junior faculty to have senior reviewers or help define draft turn-around for reviewers? What logistics and timelines work best? In coordination with a unit chair, what resources can the Office of Research provide to help and what is the best way to encourage faculty to let one another know what resources are available?
- Promotion & tenure issues and annual evaluations. SCORS will explore the beta-testing systems and evaluation templates being used by various colleges, including team science or scholarly collaboration.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 4:41 p.m.