

RESEARCH & SCHOLARSHIP COUNCIL Minutes

Wednesday, January 19, 2022

1 p.m.

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* or via ZOOM:

<https://ufl.zoom.us/j/98123248509?pwd=eDNLcW1JekhOd09wNE56ZUxMNDRnQT09>

Meeting ID: 981 2324 8509 Passcode: 145931 Dial: 301-715-8592

Present: Jason Byrd, David C. Bloom, Josepha Cheong, Paul Wassel, Angela Bacsik, Nian Wang, Michael Mahoney, Cathy Lebo, Michael Fang, Laurie Bialosky, and Paul Duncan.

I. Call to Order – Jason Byrd, Chair, Research & Scholarship Council

- The meeting was called to order at 1:01 p.m. by Research & Scholarship Council Chair Jason Byrd.

II. Approval of October 15, 2021 & November 19, 2021 Meeting Minutes

- Both minutes were approved.

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

- Funding of open access publishing and an E-lab notebook platform has been comprehensively discussed. No funds are committed, and no contributors have been located for UF campus-wide Electronic Lab Notebooks. It was confirmed that Office of Research funding is unavailable and not a priority.

- The Provost confirmed that no funds are dedicated for an open access publishing fund and no significant buy-in from colleges have surfaced to assist with financing.

- Council discussed and confirmed that there is no objection to tabling both items to another point in time when interest in funding either programs is present.

IV. Administrative Liaison/Contributing Committee Chairs Updates

University Libraries - Josepha Cheong

- The Author Rights Policy will be presented to Faculty Senate for a vote tomorrow.

- Several UF librarians have had their work accepted for presentation at the upcoming American Psychiatric Association ([APA](#)). Predator publishing information will be presented in an interactive presentation. In response to an inquiry, it was clarified that, generally due to legal liabilities, there is no established, 'definitive list' of predator publications.

Office of the Provost / Institutional Planning and Research - Cathy J. Lebo

- Assistant Provost and Director of Institutional Planning and Research Cathy J. Lebo updated council that six deans (in Business, Engineering, Medicine, Education, Agriculture, and Law) presented information about faculty scholarly activity and their

graduate programs at the Board of Trustees (BOT) meeting in December. They focused on comparisons to peer institutions, faculty per capita metrics, national and international rankings, and strategic planning for the future of each college. UF is highly ranked on many volume measures of faculty activity, but often lower on per capita measures (e.g. #3 on total articles published, #30 on articles per faculty). Per capita measures are important for our membership in AAU. The Deans talked about the distinct strengths in each college and provided an opportunity for the BOT to hear about UF's research efforts.

Office of Research - Michael Mahoney

- Director of Research Operation & Services Michael Mahoney discussed that, effective February 1, the new online protocol system, goIACUC, is live. It replaces the MyIACUC system, which will no longer be receiving submissions. IACUC is accepting submissions into the new system and new protocols and triennials will need to be input into it. A goIACUC FAQ/resource [goIACUC FAQ page](#) is available.

Graduate School - Paul Duncan

- Graduate School Senior Associate Dean Paul Duncan discussed UF Graduate School admission numbers and the effect of COVID-19. It has a relatively smaller number of January admitted students for graduate school, which follows a substantial spike of new graduate school enrollees in Spring 2021, when it was approximately 2200 (as opposed to about 1500 in the current term and about 800-1,000 in the past).

Enrollment is likely being affected by such factors as COVID-19 and available new graduate programs. New enrollees are disproportionately domestic students and are in Masters (as opposed to PhD) programs.

- Dr. Duncan anticipates that there will be extensive discussion regarding UF's long standing policy of dissertations needing to be heard in person and ideally in a UF building. This policy was relaxed due to COVID-19, but now needs additional consideration. Faculty have been asked to please contact Dr. Duncan to weigh in on a full return to the original policy or if some middle ground is preferred. Past policy reflected the thought that there is a significant impact when all dissertation committee members and students are not in the same room at the same time. Meeting noticing is a consideration as well. Council will be updated on the result of these conversations.

- In response to an inquiry made related to possible diminishing foreign student admissions applications to UF, particularly of Chinese students who some are concerned may no longer feel welcome in this country, Dr. Duncan agreed it would be helpful to review data for the last five years or so by colleges and departments, including the total number of applicants; those offered admittance to UF; and those who accepted UF admissions offers. Faculty are expressing concern about hostility and/or perceived hostility in the academic and general national and state environments. Dr. Duncan agreed that an analysis of the above can assist the university in considering a plan to help maintain a welcoming and inclusive environment at UF.

V. **Prepare draft summary of Issues Related to Gaps in [ACS Cores & Specialized Services](#) / [EH&S Approval Efficiencies](#) / [Pathogen Research Improvement](#) / [Infectious Disease Research Barriers](#)**

- Director Mahoney has continued 'one to one' research meetings and, because the issues being discussed are broader than just a single facility issue, there is a focus on animal research in general with a target to departments who conduct some of UF's largest portions of animal research. Simultaneously, College of Medicine Dean Colleen Koch suggested IRB and IACUC be looked at by an outside consultant. VP of Research David Norton has convened two task forces to work on these issues and there is some overlap of the issues described by council.
- Director Mahoney has requested that College of Medicine survey results, especially pertaining to IRB and IACUC, be shared to assist the Office of Research in helping to identify and resolve related issues.
- Council discussed how to best engage faculty and obtain comprehensive and valuable responses, including conducting its own faculty survey. Council concurred that administering an additional, and possibly somewhat repetitive survey, would not be helpful and may unintentionally confuse faculty who just completed the College of Medicine survey. It also discussed the importance of obtaining perspectives from graduate and postdoctoral students as well as 'on the ground' research staff, who all perform much of UF's daily research activity.
- Council discussed the timeline for it to effectively drill down into the presentations by Drs. Golde, Karst, and Cooke, and identify issues as this group understands them. It was agreed work would move forward to encapsulate the issues in a single document to provide to the Faculty Senate Chair, ideally in about a month. Council Chair Byrd and Professor Bacsik will work on digesting and consolidating the presentations into one document and will provide an update to council and Chair Bloom. The draft can focus on any need for: an independent outside review of IACUC, EH&S and IRB; asking the administration to develop a strategic plan for animal use and biosafety needs over the next 10 years; and a focus on planning and infusion of additional resources in these areas.

Other:

- Council also discussed the desirability of increasing undergraduate research opportunities. Comparison data between UF and other State University Systems (SUS) institutions over the past several years was briefly discussed, and reflects that, at graduation, approximately 95% of UF students answering surveys identify themselves as having actively participated in research activities as an undergraduate. Dr. Duncan noted that many undergraduates tailor their undergraduate experience to increase their opportunity for admittance to medical, dental, or other professional schools when they participate in research. This positive impact on undergraduate applications was discussed and Dr. Duncan noted the importance of widely advertising such

opportunities and of continuing to encourage/remind undergraduates to contact their professors for any potential openings. Please view and share the resources at: <https://cur.aa.ufl.edu/>.

VII. Adjournment

- The meeting adjourned at 1:55 p.m.