

RESEARCH & SCHOLARSHIP COUNCIL Minutes

Friday, October 15, 2021

3:30 p.m.

264 Grinter*

*if needed, <https://ufl.zoom.us/j/95844183960?pwd=TXg3NGd2cmRPa0FlajJqdlQwaVZSQ09>

Present: Angela Bacsik, Paul Wassell, Michael Mahoney, Paul Duncan, Jason Byrd, Amanda Phalin, Josepha Cheong, Michael Fang, Sylvain Doré, Laurie Bialosky, and Nian Wang.

- I. **Call to Order** – Jason Byrd, Research & Scholarship Council Chair
 - Research & Scholarship Council Chair Jason Byrd called the meeting to order at 3:31 p.m.

- II. **Approval of September 17, 2021 Minutes**
 - The minutes were approved.

- III. **Council Chair's Report / Faculty Senate Steering Committee Update**
 - Chair Byrd shared updates from and topics discussed at the October Steering Committee meeting, including:
 - Faculty and Faculty Senate and committee members are encouraged to review and discuss the shared governance model, posted at <http://senate.ufl.edu/>.
 - UF has risen in the U.S. News & World Report Best Colleges rankings, reaching the No. 5 position among U.S. public schools.
 - Provost Glover would like Faculty Senate to review and share any feedback regarding areas of opportunity in Artificial Intelligence (AI) in business, medicine, and a diverse range of curriculum across campus.
 - New Graduate School Dean Dr. Nicole Stedman was introduced and presented to her goals and graduate school initiatives and priorities at the last Faculty Senate meeting.
 - The academic calendar is being reviewed by Faculty Senate, with consideration to equating the number of days in the fall and spring semesters, delaying the typical start date of the spring semester and aligning spring break with that of the Alachua County school district. COVID-19 has delayed the usual procedure of approving the academic calendar five years in advance.
 - A [Welfare Council COVID-19 resolution](#) is moving forward as an Information Item for the October Faculty Senate meeting.
 - **Electronic Lab Notebooks (ELN)**
 - The Office of Research has established that ELN is not a funding priority and council discussed if needed first-year funding for an ELN initiative could be available from UF's Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act monies. Where to obtain sustainable and recurring funding for the \$141k year-one, unlimited license remains an issue and Past Faculty Senate Chair Sylvain Doré suggested [possible options](#) and UF

Offices which could benefit from an ELN investment.

- [Research Space \(RSpace\)](#) is an electronic research notebook (ERN) solution with data management setup features for integration with online files and data. RSpace is providing a demonstration on October 25 11 a.m. - noon via Zoom for such stakeholders as UFIT Research Computing, UF CTS-IT, Office of Research, etc.

- Chair Byrd will relay this information in his council report and to Chair Bloom to identify if any other known funding opportunities are available.

- [Faculty Authors Rights Policy/University Libraries Committee Liaison/Chair Updates](#)

- The [Faculty Authors Rights Policy](#) will be placed on the Academic Policy Council's (APC) October 28 agenda. Any APC feedback will be brought to the November 19 Research & Scholarship Council meeting for a motion to approve, amend, etc. and then be passed along for placement on the December 9 Steering & December 16 Senate agendas.

- **Update on Open Publishing Fund**

- Program funds for the UF Open Access Publishing (UFOAP) Fund expired this summer. UFOAP assists in making UF research findings available immediately without charge to all readers and assists UF authors with costs incurred by publishing in open access and hybrid open access journals. Because the Provost Office-provided annual funds were depleted within seven months, funding partners are needed for program continuation; Past Faculty Senate Chair Sylvain Doré suggested [possible options](#). A breakdown of the use of the fund by specific colleges may also be helpful in navigating this line of inquiry.

- An inquiry was made regarding Frontier's high annual charges and the potential for obtaining access to Frontier by negotiating a discount, particularly given that UF is very active in providing reviewers for Frontiers. University Libraries had assessed this opportunity several years ago and determined that it was not cost effective. At that time, Frontiers charged \$10,000 per year, with UF authors receiving only a \$10% reduction in article processing charges. Dean Russell will relay any new information received from Frontiers.

- An inquiry was raised regarding staffing, faculty positions, and tenure eligibility in the University Libraries and it was noted that [UF regulations](#) clarify faculty classifications.

IV. **Compliance/EH&S Procedures /Office of Research Liaison Updates**

- Professor Stephanie Karst, Department of Molecular Genetics & Microbiology, will attend next month's council meeting and provided a document highlighting the importance of and suggestions for [UF pathogen research improvement](#). There is interest in setting up a working group to address this topic.

- IACUC concerns were also discussed by council, including inconsistent lab inspections and review results; lack of panel consensus and expertise; a need for checks and balances on animal experiments; inefficient dissemination of approvals; and a need for findings to be relayed in tandem and at a quicker pace. Todd Golde, Professor, Department of Neuroscience & McKnight Brain Institute (MBI) Director has been

invited to address IACUC Approval & Animal Care Services (ACS) Efficiencies with council.

- Ongoing IACUC and EH&S issues are creating faculty retention concerns and council discussed if an independent internal or external review would be most beneficial.
- Council administrative liaison and Director of Research Operation & Services Michael Mahoney provided an update of administrative and faculty animal researcher meetings which began over the summer.
- Additional meetings have continued for the Office of Research to engage on a regular basis with faculty. Stakeholders are reviewing and accessing concerns raised and are engaged in a listening phase to assist with any needed or updated policy or procedure implementation.
- Some issues raised included that EH&S has been adversely affected by staffing turnover while protocols numbers have doubled; and the use of the Student Health Office by occupational medicine. HR has assessed using care spots.
- Director Mahoney discussed administrative infrastructure investments and expressed a commitment to research betterment and working with Faculty Senate.
- A new director, Dr. Shailendra Singh came on board in August as the Director of Environmental Health and Safety (EH&S) and is helping to focus on the research portion of environmental health and safety.
- Reviewing of peer university protocols would be helpful. He invited faculty to help identify which schools would be best to visit.
- A decision to engage any external oversight would be shepherded by VP of Research David Norton.
- Following an inquiry about obtaining a searchable UF equipment list of \$50,000 and higher, council briefly discussed that UC Davis has a web tool available to search for campus equipment. Asset Management can generate a list at any time if a request is made and a current Excel chart listing is available. While the latter is helpful in establishing the research designations/contacts for items, the equipment functionality and availability, as well as the need for a Principal Investigator to clearly identify and share any needed equipment training for individuals outside of their research program is a challenge. Access to an equipment contact name and a list of CORE equipment would be helpful.

V. Administrative Liaison/Contributing Committee Chairs Updates, *Continued*

Graduate School - Paul Duncan

- By the end of the semester, the Graduate School would like to implement an Individual Development Plan (IDP) progress indicator in the student information system so that annually both advisors and students can more easily ascertain if their IDP has been updated within the past year. PhD programs are guided by an IDP, so this measure is not meant to be punitive but rather to serve as a helpful reminder.

- **Other**

- There is a proposal being developed regarding evaluation of post-tenure productivity for faculty. The Provost and members of the Academic Policy Council and the Advisory Council of Faculty Senates (ACFS) are discussing proposed paths to tenure evaluation review and outcomes. UF and its counterparts in the Florida State University System (SUS) are proactively seeking to avoid concerns raised by faculty in other states, such as in Georgia, of centralized state control of (and potentially the elimination of) the tenure process.
- There was an AI Initiative inquiry regarding how UF can develop a more coordinated strategy for faculty to obtain funding for fundamental research and incorporate AI.
- An inquiry was raised regarding the <http://graduateschool.ufl.edu/faculty--staff/awards/faculty-doctoral-mentoring-award/> award criteria for faculty mentoring. Council will ask for Graduate School feedback to ascertain if the requirement to have one PhD graduate per year could prove (or has proven) restrictive for smaller programs.

VI. Adjournment

- The meeting adjourned at 4:35 p.m.