

RESEARCH & SCHOLARSHIP COUNCIL Minutes

Friday, September 17, 2021

3:30 p.m.

264 Grinter*

*if needed, Conference Call Dial in: (605) 472-5377 access code: 843181

Present: Angela Bacsik, David Bloom, Perry Collins, Cassandra Farley, Amanda Phalin, Josepha Cheong, Paul Wassell, Michael Mahoney, Laurie Bialosky, Paul Duncan, and Sylvain Doré.

I. Call to order

- The meeting was called to order at 3:31 p.m. by Acting Council Chair Angela Bacsik.

II. Introductions

- Council members and guests were introduced.

III. Approval of May 7, 2021 Minutes

- The minutes were approved.

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

- Please let Chair Byrd know if you will serve as a Council Vice-chair to assist with council business and additional chair support.

- An update was received that a council seat has been vacated by a member who is now employed at another university. The Faculty Senate Secretary will proceed with the process to fill this seat.

V. Council Topic Suggestions for 2021-22 Academic Year

- An Electronic Lab Notebook (ELN) is a computer program designed to replace paper laboratory notebooks and assist in archiving research data, compliance, and information sharing. ELN's have been a topic of discussion for the past five years. No funding source has been identified for campus-wide use. There was an inquiry about the availability of Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act money for such an initiative, particularly to fund the first year of an Enterprise license. The Office of Research confirms that ELN is not a funding priority. It will share available vendor contacts.

- Please share any council topics of interest for this academic year with Chair Byrd.

- Acting Chair Bacsik shared that the [2020-2021 Annual Research & Scholarship Council Report](#) is posted and may be helpful for council members to review.

VI. Update on Recent Federal and State Requirements Related to Undue Foreign Influence – Cassandra Farley, Director of Research Integrity

- In June, Governor Ron DeSantis signed [HB 7017](#) which is designed to protect Florida's

higher education institutions and government from undue foreign influence, including corporate espionage, and to encourage intellectual property safe-keeping. It was passed unanimously by the Florida legislature and became effective July 1, 2021, with another legislative clause (which is related to state research institution requirements for foreign travel approval, monitoring, and reporting) becoming effective January 1, 2022.

- The bill identifies 'countries of concern' as being: China, Russia, Iran, North Korea, Cuba, Venezuela and Syria.

- The Office of Research appointed an officer to review personnel travel, travel screening, foreign contracts, and international agreements to adhere to these new requirements. VP of Research David Norton chairs a task force which meets weekly to properly and thoughtfully implement all elements of the bill. A methodical roll-out is planned. Beta testing is being conducted by adding one college at a time and is underway for J-1 visas, B visas, and those here for an extended period of time.

- A staff and faculty hires screening process will be implemented. UF is required to do a risk-based assessment. More updates are forthcoming.

- To meet the travel screening requirement, UF must review and approve all international travel conducted for UF business. UF is organizing the procedure to be a user friendly one.

- The state of Florida echoes concerns similar to those of the federal government regarding transparent research and work.

- Council inquiries addressed included:

- From the graduate student perspective, will this be a burden for students traveling to and from their home countries? UF is aware of this burden and intends to minimize the impact on students as much as possible while recognizing that UF must ensure that mentors and students are fully aware of the research business guidelines if/when students are conducting research in their home country.

- Regarding concern about the amount of time it will take for vetting, UF is trying to expedite the approval process in a way in which it will not be a burden, and which will eventually feel fairly invisible. UF wants to ensure it does not slow the hiring process. UF is still in the process of accessing needed forms and staffing.

- There was an inquiry about how the countries were selected to be on the above list. Some countries are federally sanctioned, while Florida added other countries of concern (China and Russia).

- Concerns were shared about complications and what is allowable for things such as a Visiting Scientist, Visiting Professor, or Visiting Scholar. The process is being formalized by UF now and the Office of Research is doing a college-based roll-out to help communicate and provide instructional materials for faculty and staff.

- Is there tracking on who applies and who is rejected and is there an appeals process? It is expected that there will be some approvals with some sort of mitigations, which is common for Visiting Scholars; for example, restrictions on controlled research. The bill indicates that the UF Research Integrity Office manages and has the final say on the

status of all applicants. The travel review is separate from the asset management review and from export control. UF is required to report this data to the Board of Governors (BOG) on an annual basis.

- Director Farley will present this information at the next Faculty Senate Steering and Faculty Senate meetings.

VII. Administrative Liaison/Contributing Committee Chairs Updates

University Libraries - Josepha Cheong, University Libraries Committee (ULC) Chair

- Perry Collins, Copyright & Open Educational Resources Librarian, has collaborated with the University Libraries Committee (ULC) on a [Faculty Author Rights Policy](#); this document contains in-depth information about the proposed policy as well as additional reference links.

- Faculty often give their publishers control of publishing rights. Publishers have very different models, some of which are extremely restrictive.

- The authors rights policy has focused on how faculty can best and most easily share their work, retain their publishing rights, and increase citation of their work without the burden of negotiating with individual and separate publishers.

- The policy has been in development for nearly three years. With COVID interrupting the final development phase, the ULC now wishes to bring this forward and continue its earlier momentum.

- The policy draft is based on a Harvard and MIT model and the University of North Carolina, the California University System, and other peer institutions have implemented a similar policy.

- The policy is not a mandate, nor does it limit or suggest journals where faculty should publish.

- Faculty can easily opt out of the UF option if they prefer.

- University Libraries has consulted with the General Counsel's Office to confirm and help refine needed points of clarification and has been in touch with the United Faculty of Florida and more than a half dozen College Councils/Assemblies and shared governance chairs and groups to vet the proposal. A great deal of feedback has been received by faculty, students, and research staff.

- Please forward any follow up questions to Perry Collins perrycollins@ufl.edu.

- Council agreed with the ULC that this Academic Affairs-related policy should be forwarded to the Academic Policy Council for its feedback.

Office of Research - Michael Mahoney

- The new Institutional Animal Care & Use Committee (IACUC) system for processing animal research protocol went live this summer. UF is not yet requiring use of this new system. It is anticipated this will be used for all new research before the end of the year and faculty will be provided 30-60 days' notice. The IACUC team, including Committee Chair Daniel Brown; Research Regulatory Manager Kaetlin Vasquez;; Animal Care Services Executive Director Irene Cooke, and others are asking Deans and

Department Chairs to meet with faculty to learn about any concerns or field any inquiries. This will be an ongoing engagement to enhance faculty communication with this team.

- The current focus is on animal research and precedes that of human research.
- Data extraction from the data warehouse was completed this summer and has provided Institutional Review Board (IRB) metrics and helped to pinpoint areas of need and success.
- Better facilitation of full board studies and reducing the timeframe for IACUC reviews are being examined. Protocol review is facilitated by three parties: a primary reviewer, a veterinarian, and an Environmental Health & Safety (EH&S) reviewer.
- Health assessments, which are done in the Student Health Center, and which must be performed to come into contact with animals, are also being reviewed.
- PeopleSoft is used as the data platform. The status of approved, pending, or declined is visible. Efforts to maximize efficiency and increase speed are underway.
- Council briefly discussed animal facility options, including the need for a strategic plan, determining space expansion costs, EH&S support opportunities, and back-logs due to COVID.

VIII. Adjournment

- The meeting adjourned at 4:37 p.m.