

RESEARCH & SCHOLARSHIP COUNCIL Minutes

Friday, February 3, 2023 / 2:00 p.m.

*264 Grinter

*If needed <https://ufl.zoom.us/j/95550785975?pwd=S1VUYUZFcUxBMG12Q1hmUjFDU3cwdz09>

Meeting ID: 955 5078 5975 Passcode: 896537

Present:

In Person: Angela Bacsik, Tom Kelleher, and Michael Mahoney.

On Zoom: David Bloom, Yousong Ding, Judy Russell, Amelia Dempere, Norman Beatty, Ashley Ghiaseddin, Sylvain Doré, and Jasleen Kaur.

- I. **Call to Order – Angela Bacsik**, Chair, Research & Scholarship Council
- Research & Scholarship Council Chair Angela Bacsik called the meeting to order at 2:01 p.m.

- II. **Approval of January 6, 2023 Minutes**

-The minutes were approved.

- III. **Council Chair’s Report / Faculty Senate Steering Committee Update / Potential Impacts on Research and Research Funding**

Updates from Faculty Senate Steering Committee by Chair Bacsik: the recent actions by the state on DEI and CRT activities on campus; discussions of recent shift to “inclusive excellence” to cover some aspects of DEI and CRT. Discussion of the large number of federal grant agencies that request and consider DEI and outreach components as an essential and important part of competitive proposals. The Chair sought comments and thoughts of council members on how the recent actions by the state will affect research and scholarship activities and grant funding in both short term and long term, including how to properly respond and mitigate potential negative effects. Of note, comments on education, student wellness and faculty wellness and other aspects affected by the recent actions by the state may be covered in other committees.

(David Bloom): DEI components are critical for the NIH designation of UF Cancer Center; some planned activities of the Cancer Center were delayed or cancelled; it was suggested that the committee send a letter to the research deans to collect data on how the recent actions by the state may affect grants and activities in their colleges. Chair Bacsik will prepare an email template and share it with council members to seek comments before sending to the research deans.

(Tom Kelleher): the recent actions on DEI and CRT by the state may influence levels of faculty pursuit of new and existing grants requiring DEI components, negatively

influencing the mission and value of UF.

(Jasleen Kaur): Students feel uncertain and hope to know the stands of high administrators at UF. Dr. Bacsik indicated that the incoming president was not in the steering committee meeting yesterday; current administrators asked for clarification on what kinds of programs should be included on the state's request for a DEI data list, and verbally they were told to leave out inclusive efforts connected to disability or veterans status, among other inclusion efforts, and instead to focus on race and gender in creating the list.

IV. Update on Recent Progress – Michael Mahoney, Director, Research Operation & Services and David C. Bloom, Past Faculty Senate Chair

Michael Mahoney: meeting with CoM faculty is scheduled on Feb 27; multiple members from IACUC and IRB and other committees will attend the meeting; additional meetings are planned likely in April and August; will identify faculty representatives from heavy use departments and build better relationships and communication, particularly with young or new faculty. Office of Research is seeking feedback from faculty. Early this week, version 2 tools were online and Office of Research gave presentations in several departments that have many users. Users left many positive comments on new tools. A significant number of proposals had graduate students as PI. In addition, Office of Research is planning to develop tools for chart review studies, which is more challenging. The Office of Research allocated three FTEs to EHS and the approval time was shortened, based on recent communications. However, there are still some issues that negatively affect the IRB and IACUC approvals.

David Bloom: still waiting for feedback from all colleges in UF Health and all may be received in next couple of weeks. Many positive comments from faculty on new tools developed by the Office of Research. In addition, the action to seek outside suggestions and comments from peer institutions (e.g., the University of Michigan and University of Nebraska Medical School) and consulting companies was praised by faculty. Additional issues about biosafety approval were brought up.

Sylvain Doré asked (1) if any approval timeline or related data can be provided by the Office of Research to the Research Council or Faculty Senate meeting on a site-license for digital lab notebook software; (2) if a list of available equipment on campus can be shared. He also commented that faculty from the departments with few users should not be ignored as they may meet even more challenges in seeking IACUC and IRB approvals. In response, Michael Mahoney indicated that there are many moving parts right now but Office of Research is trying to make everything as transparent as possible. Data sharing is not clear at this stage.

- *References:*
 - ✓ [Memo Summary for Final Report of IACUC Process Improvement Working Group \(IPIWG\)](#)
 - ✓ [Final Report of IACUC Process Improvement Working Group \(IPIWG\)](#)
 - ✓ [Memo Summary for Final Report of Human Subject Research Improvement Working Group \(HSRIWG\)](#)
 - ✓ [HSRIWG Final Report w. Appendices](#)
Tabled May 2022 Senate [Resolution for Development of a Strategic Plan for Animal and Human Subject Research Resources](#) - David C. Bloom, Past Faculty Senate Chair
[Research & Scholarship Council Efficiencies Report 04.20](#)

V. Administrative Liaison/Contributing Committee Chairs Introductions/Updates

University Libraries - Josepha Cheong/Judith Russell

- Dean Judith Russell: had outreach events to increase information literacy; gave presentations on how to seek resources; syllabi will now have a link to show library support for courses that connects to the research librarian and subject specific research guide
- Library West: repair is ongoing and on track. Subject specialists are examining book damage and replacement options; prepared insurance claims, particularly books, equipment and personal efforts. More things may be covered than initially thought.

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

- Not available

Office of Research - David Norton/Stephanie Gray/Michael Mahoney

- Described above.

Graduate School – Tom Kelleher

A new memo about retired faculty still working with their graduate students who have not yet completed their degrees was sent out this afternoon. After retirement for 6 months, faculty cannot serve on any graduate committee even without pay or they will risk receiving their retirement benefits during that period. Graduate School identified a considerable number of faculty under this category and is working with HR and the associate deans to address issues.

VI. Adjournment

- The meeting adjourned at 3:06 pm.