

RESEARCH & SCHOLARSHIP COUNCIL Minutes

Monday, January 22, 2024

2:00 p.m.

Zoom only meeting

*<https://ufl.zoom.us/j/92336379502?pwd=dEg3OWNITzNnVGw2bGNqd3ZKY1JJZz09>

Meeting ID: 923 3637 9502 Passcode: 665907 Dial in: +1 305 224 1968*

Present: Ashley Ghiaseddin, Amelia Dempere, David C. Bloom, Vandana Baweja, Sara Moscovita Falzarano, Ifigeneia Giannadaki, Meri Hambaryan, Laurie Bialosky, Tom Kelleher, Michael Mahoney, Czerne Reid, and Judith Russell.

- I. **Call to Order – Ashley Ghiaseddin**, Chair, Research & Scholarship Council
 - The meeting was called to order by Research & Scholarship Council Chair Ashley Ghiaseddin at 2:30 p.m.
- **Approval of October 23, 2023 & November 27, 2023 Minutes**
 - The minutes were approved with the following corrections and additions:
 - Correct Dempere’s name in November’s minutes
 - Add report and slides presented by Dr. Norton in the 01/18/2024 Faculty Senate meeting.
- II. **Council Chair’s Report / Faculty Senate Steering Committee Update**
 - Please remind colleagues to complete {by January 31} a [nomination form](#) for university-wide committees; more details are [here](#) including the list of [open seats](#) this election cycle; view the Research & Scholarship Council roster and terms [here](#).
- **Strategic Plan for Animal and Human Subject Research Update** – David C. Bloom, 2021-2 Faculty Senate Chair
 - Dr. Bloom discussed the [Strategic Plan for Animal and Human Subject Research Resources presentation](#) by VP of Research Dr. Norton at last week’s Jan 18 Faculty Senate meeting.
Comments: There has been significant improvement in the processing of IRB requests and the review process has received major positive recognition. Biosafety and EH&S approve certain steps of the process. There has been much turnover in that unit which might temporarily slow the processing approval.

Question from Czerne Q: Are there any incentives in place for the IACUC committee?

Answer from Michael Mahoney: There will be \$1,500 at the end of the FY for the members of the committee based on performance.

Question from Czerne: Are improvements to the processing advertised?

Answer by Michael Mahoney: lunches with PIS (last year 6 lunches) Relationship building meetings are occurring between committees and PI's to better understand individual researchers workflow. Hire a staff to help PIs. Hired 2 regulatory agency liaisons. Last lunch in December the hiring info was provided to the PIs attending.

Comment from Michel Mahoney: The Biosafety review is currently the biggest pain point. EH&S Chemical safety team is involved. Two FTEs from IACUC have been relocated to EH&S to help with review processes. Things should be moving faster soon.

Benchmarking with other institutions helped find an ideal process to be tried when EH&S's new staff gets moving faster.

IACUC metrics presented at the Faculty Senate meeting were discussed.

- Based on the improvements that have occurred, Dr. Bloom recommended to remove his prior [resolution](#) that has remained in ongoing Faculty Senate discussions. The Research & Scholarship Council is requesting another Office of Research update at the end of Fall 2024.

III. [Research & Scholarship Council](#)

Next topic for the Council to consider-RSC@UF?

IV. **Administrative Liaison/Contributing Committee Chairs Introductions/Updates**

Graduate School - Tom Kelleher

HWCOE Graduate Committees without Graduate Faculty Status. - Council liaison Dr.

Tom Kelleher reported that Graduate School has developed a less formal way to invite special members to participate on graduate student committees, and that both the existing method and new method are now posted at

<https://graduateschool.ufl.edu/work/faculty/special/>.

University Libraries - Judith Russell

UF libraries exceed performance metrics with fewer resources as compared with the

averages of public peer universities.

Libraries have submitted the largest budget request in the last 16 years including funding for Market Equity for faculty and staff. The budget will allow the library to further expand operations efficiently.

Russell was asked for a brief presentation at February's R&S Council meeting.

This year is the largest budget they have been encouraged to submit.

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

The Occupational Medicine and the Animal Contact Program - The Nurse Practitioner who met with PIs and laboratory personnel regarding animal contact has left the position and is not going to be replaced. However, there is a transition plan that is being worked on. The office of research is aware of potential impacts on PIs following a resignation such as described may include delays in animal contact approvals and for individuals with allergies. Additional delays may include research that requires entering animal care facilities, or that includes the use of animals in any way. The office of research will work minimize impacts to PIs research.

V. Adjournment

- The meeting adjourned at 2:56 p.m.

Minutes Submitted by Research & Scholarship Council member Luisa Amelia Dempere