

University Research Council

Minutes of January 17, 2019 meeting

Members Present: Rob Rutenbar, SVCR and Chair, N. John Cooper, Deputy VC-Research; Michael Holland, Vice Chancellor for Science Policy and Research Strategy; Jennifer Woodward, VC-Research Operations; Mark Anderson, Associate Prof-School of Arts and Sciences; Karen Arndt, Prof-School of Arts and Sciences; Velpandi Ayyavoo, Prof and Associate Dean-Graduate School of Public Health; Yvette Conley, Prof and Vice Chair-Research-School of Nursing; Marek Druzdzal, Prof-School of Computing and Information; Shaun Eack, School of Social Work; Robert Gibbs, Prof-School of Pharmacy; Kent Harries, Prof-School of Engineering; Julie Fiez, Prof & Chair of Psychology-School of Arts and Sciences; Alexandria Harris, Graduate and Professional Student Government Board/URC Graduate Student Representative; Stephen Hirtle, School of Computing and Information; Holger Hoock, Amundson Prof and Associate Dean for Graduate Studies and Research-School of Arts and Sciences; Sean Kelly, Prof-School of Education; William Layton, Prof-School of Arts and Science; Kacey Marra Associate Prof-School of Medicine; Elizabeth Monasterios, Prof-School of Arts and Sciences; Frits Pil, Prof-Katz Graduate School of Business; Jeremy Somers, Scientific Director-OORHS; Alexandre Vieira, Prof-School of Dental Medicine, Stephen Weber, Prof-School of Arts and Sciences; Ryan Champagne, Office of Research.

Members Absent: Debbie Brake, Associate Dean-School of Law; William Dunn, Prof-Graduate School of Public and International Affairs; Raymond Engel, Associate Prof-School of Social Work; Brian Galla, Assistant Prof-School of Education; Neil Hukriede, Associate Prof and Vice Chair-School of Medicine; Matthew Kropf, Assistant Prof-University of Pittsburgh at Bradford; Susan Sereika, Prof-School of Nursing; Steven Stern, Prof and Chair-University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown; Peijun Zhang, School of Medicine,

1. Welcome and Announcements

Dr. Rutenbar welcomed the Council members and called the meeting to order at 12:15 pm

2. November 15, 2018 URC Meeting Minutes

The November meeting minutes had been circulated to Council and were approved *nem con*.

3. Assistant Vice Chancellor for Research for the Humanities, Arts, Social Sciences, and Related Fields

Dr. Rutenbar distributed and discussed the job description for the position to be created of Assistant Vice Chancellor for Research for the Humanities, Arts, Social Sciences, and Related Fields. The goal is to ensure that the Senior Vice Chancellor for Research has a way of facilitating opportunities internal and external for faculty to achieve their full research and scholarly potential. This position is currently conceptualized as a 50% effort position, rotating every three years. The goal is to find a candidate who really understands the mode of scholarship, funding opportunities, and how to establish collaborations. The Council continued to be supportive, and asked about the recruitment process. Dr. Rutenbar indicated that he intends to send the job description to Deans seeking faculty applications and nominations. The nomination package should be brief; a CV and cover letter are all that will be required. Dr. Rutenbar will

seek concurrence from the candidate's Dean, and the selection will involve faculty from relevant disciplines. This position will directly report to Dr. Rutenbar.

As another example of broader support from his office for faculty research, Dr. Rutenbar reported on the Big Proposal Boot Camp. Drs. Rutenbar and Mike Holland are hosting a weekly two-hour seminar for 11 weeks running into April. The attendees were invited to participate on the recommendation of Deans. The idea is to explain what resources needed and the logistics of going after very large proposals and to build a network of faculty with that expertise. The Boot Camp will include a number of guest speakers, some of whom have had successful big proposals in the past. This first round is STEM centric, and a challenge going forward will be to broaden the audience and content.

4. Foreign Influence Memo/Questions

Dr. Rutenbar described work in his office with a variety of stakeholders on campus related to federal concerns about foreign influence on US research. The high-level tensions of an international nature in this area cannot be ignored, and our responses parallel those at peer institutions. There aren't actually any new policy challenges for Pitt at this time, and there are many resources on campus that faculty should be aware of when they need help with the federal regulatory landscape. But it is important for faculty to be aware they usually can't develop foreign engagements in a vacuum—if contracts are involved, for example, they need to work with Jennifer Woodward's office. If faculty are expecting foreign gifts in support of their work, they should work with the Office of Institutional Advancement. If the work involves advanced technology, they should contact the Export Control office.

5. Update on CRDF Applications and Review Process

Ryan Champagne, Grants Development Coordinator in the Office of Research, gave the CRDF applications update. The CRDF application deadline was January 19, 2019, 36 applications were received. The applications were fairly split between the three committees (Humanities, Social Sciences, and Health Sciences).

Ryan explained that the goal of this early January deadline (verses the late February deadline of last year) is to have the reviews completed by late spring. Dr. Rutenbar will reach out to the Council members to name subcommittee chairs for the reviews in the near future (two chairs will be needed for each category).

6. Any Other Business

There being no other business the meeting adjourned at 1:00 pm