

University Research Council

Minutes of January 13, 2020 Meeting

Members Present: *Rob Rutenbar, Senior Vice Chancellor for Research; N. John Cooper, Deputy Vice Chancellor for Research; Mark Lynn Anderson, Department of English; Karen Arndt, Department of Biological Sciences; Velpandi Ayyavoo, Graduate School of Public Health; Ryan Champagne, Grants Development Coordinator, Office of Sponsored Programs; Yvette Conley, School of Nursing; Julie Fiez, Department of Psychology; Brian Galla, School of Education; Shelome Gooden, Assistant Vice Chancellor for Research in the Humanities, Arts, Social Sciences and Related Fields; Kent Harries, School of Engineering; Alexandria Harris, Graduate and Professional Student Government Board; Stephen Hirtle, School of Computing and Information; Michael Holland, Vice Chancellor for Science Policy and Research Strategy; Neil Hukriede, Department of Developmental Biology; William Layton, Department of Mathematics; Elizabeth Monasterios, Department of Hispanic Languages and Literatures; Frits Pil, Katz Graduate School of Business; Jeremy Somers, Office of Research, Health Sciences; Alexandre Vieira, School of Dental Medicine; Stephen Weber, Department of Chemistry; Jennifer Woodward, Vice Chancellor for Research Operations*

Members Absent: *Debbie Brake, School of Law; Heidi Ann Scharf Donovan, School of Nursing; William Dunn, Graduate School of Public and International Affairs; Shaun Eack, School of Social Work; Raymond Engel, School of Social Work; Robert B. Gibbs, Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences; Holger Hooek, Associate Dean for Graduate Studies and Research, School of Arts and Sciences; Sean Kelly, School of Education; Matthew Kropf, University of Pittsburgh Bradford; Kacey Marra, School of Medicine; Anne Robertson, School of Engineering; Margaret Rosenzweig, School of Nursing; Susan Sereika, Department of Health and Community Systems; Steven Stern, University of Pittsburgh Johnstown;*

Guest Attendees: *George Huber, Vice Chancellor for Research Protections; Bill Yates, Co-Director, Research Protections*

1. Welcome and Announcements

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

2. December 12, 2019 URC Meeting Minutes

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

3. Introduction of Dr. Shelome Gooden as Assistant Vice Chancellor for Research for the Humanities, Art, Social Sciences, and Related Fields

Dr. Rutenbar introduced Dr. Shelome Gooden, newly-appointed to the post of Assistant Vice Chancellor for Research for the Humanities, Art, Social Sciences, and Related Fields. She will enable PittResearch to be more connected to, and engaged with, the

humanities and the broad spectrum of fields implicit in her title. She will broaden the impact of PittResearch beyond the STEM and biomedical areas.

4. Momentum Fund update (MH)

Dr. Mike Holland gave an update of the Pitt Momentum Funds process. He noted that Competition Space did receive a good number of submissions, but he would want there to be more in the future. He asked the committee to offer any advice they may be able to give to get information about the program out more effectively in future rounds. He expressed his thanks to those on the URC who have helped with the process.

5. Internal Funding Showcase (MH)

Dr. Holland discussed the showcase of those who have won funding. Invitations will be going out soon, save the dates have already been sent out.

Dr. Rutenbar noted that feedback has been very positive and that this has helped encourage researchers to reach out to someone they might not have tried to work with if not for teaming grant opportunity.

It was noted that there will be outreach efforts to those that were not invited to pitch.

6. Update on MyDisclosures – Online system for COI Disclosure and Review under the new COIR policy (NJC)

The new online process for COI disclosure and review, *MyDisclosures*, had been demonstrated to the Committee in December. Dr. Rutenbar recently attended the Council of Deans to talk and the system and have Bill Yates provide a demo—the presentation was very well-received. The deans were invited to pilot this season, with opting-in taking place on a school by school basis. Dr. Cooper noted that the majority of deans are interested in participating and that we will send additional information to deans so that they understand what participation will entail.

Dr. Cooper reminded the Committee that this is a joint endeavor by Pitt and UPMC.

It was noted that not much will change regarding who should be reporting, it may just seem that way because compliance with the current paper disclosure process has not been as strong as we would like.

The goal is that the next round of communication will go out in the next week or two. FAQs are being put together, and a Help Desk is being planned.

7. Engagement with Plan for Pitt (MH)

The CFO's office is running the development plan for Pitt. They are asking for input via an online survey and assorted 90-minute workshops. These include workshops targeted at faculty.

Historically, our strategic plan has just been to be "better" than the year before. The University wants to develop a more strategic plan for Pitt, that will build a University that is excellent in distinctive ways.

There will be a lot of opportunity in the near future to be involved in Pitt's strategic planning, and Dr. Holland encouraged members to get engaged.

8. Any other business

There being no other business, the meeting adjourned at 12:42pm.