

## University Research Council

### Minutes of November 10, 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; Ipsita Banarjee, School of Engineering; Dominic Bordelon, University Library System; Debbie Brake, School of Law; Ryan Champagne, Assistant Director for Research Development, Office of Sponsored Programs; Yvette Conley, School of Nursing; William Dunn, Graduate School of Public and International Affairs; Julie Fiez, Department of Psychology; Robert B. Gibbs, Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences; 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; Michael Holland, Vice Chancellor for Science Policy and Research Strategy; Heng Huang, School of Engineering; Neil Hukriede, Department of Developmental Biology; Sean Kelly, School of Education; William Layton, Department of Mathematics; Jeremy Levy, Department of Physics & Astronomy; Yu-Ru Lin, School of Computing and Information; Diane Litman, School of Computing and Information; Elizabeth Monasterios, Department of Hispanic Languages and Literatures; Erica Owen, Department of Political Science; Frits Pil, Katz Graduate School of Business; Anne Robertson, School of Engineering; Rachel Robertson, School of Education; Shilpa Sant, Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences; Ravi Shankar, School of Engineering; Jeremy Somers, Office of Research, Health Sciences; Steven Stern, University of Pittsburgh Johnstown; Alexandre Vieira, School of Dental Medicine; Christian Wildberg, Department of Classics; Jennifer Woodward, Vice Chancellor for Sponsored Programs & Research Operations*

**Members Absent:** *Shaun Eack, School of Social Work; Ray Engel, School of Social Work; Brian Galla, School of Education; Holger Hock, Associate Dean for Graduate Studies and Research, School of Arts and Sciences; Matthew Kropf, University of Pittsburgh Bradford; Kacey Marra, School of Medicine; Margaret Rosenzweig, School of Nursing*

#### **1. Welcome and Introductions**

Dr. Rob Rutenbar welcomed the Council members and called the meeting to order at 12:05 pm.

#### **2. Sept. 2020 URC Meeting Minutes**

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

#### **3. Welcome to new members**

Dr. Rob Rutenbar welcomed the new members joining the committee for the first time, noting especially how helpful the breadth of backgrounds on the committee will be during review processes for grant proposals.

#### **4. Changing Risk Postures at Pitt: Intro to the Research Ops Web Page**

Dr. Rutenbar noted Pitt's (Oakland campus) change in risk posture back up to "elevated" from "guarded" and reminded the group that all information regarding what this means for research can be found at the Pitt Research website.

A request was made that FAQs should be updated to clarify policy for "visitors" vs. "contractors/maintenance" under this risk posture. Dr. Holland undertook to do this.

After a question was raised regarding travel restrictions, it was clarified that limits to personal travel are merely "advisory", but if you are travelling for work/research at Pitt, the rules apply, and unauthorized travel will not be reimbursed.

Dr. Holland will send the group guidance regarding dealing with international TAs.

There was a note from several Committee members that it would be better for Pitt Research COVID info to be easier to get to from main Pitt Coronavirus page, rather than having to scroll and click through multiple other pages to get to it. Dr. Rutenbar agreed that this was problem.

#### **5. Update on Momentum Fund Applications**

Ryan Champagne noted that the Pitt Momentum Funds application and review process is running along smoothly, noting that they are currently in the process of identifying reviewers for the grants. He also noted that they are still in need of co-chairs for a few of the committees, so he will be reaching out to the new Committee members to seek help.

New members were encouraged to reach out to Dr. Holland and/or Ryan Champagne to learn more about the Pitt Momentum Funds.

#### **6. Update on Momentum Fund Review process**

The review process was covered under the previous item

#### **7. Any other business**

There being no other business, the meeting adjourned at 12:43 pm.