

Faculty Research Committee Report for 2017-2018

Presented at the 02/08/19 Faculty Council Meeting

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Background: The Faculty Research Committee (FRC) consists of nine members appointed by the Chancellor. The Committee advises the Chancellor, other officers of administration, and the Faculty Council on matters of University policy and their implementation that have significant impact upon research.

Mission: The Committee's broad mission is to contribute to and support the research mission of the University. We are advisory to the Vice Chancellor for Research.

The committee was convened 7 times over the 2017-2018 academic year: September 2017, November 2017, December 2017, February 2018, March 2018, April 2018 and May 2018.

In September 2017, FRC Chair, Gary Cuddeback, met with the Vice Chancellor for Research, Terry Magnuson, to discuss an agenda for the committee. The VCR and Chair agreed to convene the FRC monthly to discuss a variety of issues, including the VCR's Creativity Hubs initiative and research priorities over the next decade.

The October meeting was cancelled due to inclement weather. In November 2017, VCR presented an overview of three initiatives coming out of the OVCR: strategic research priorities; creativity hubs; and advancing research infrastructure. Strategic research priorities include: (1) Brain; (2) Cancer; (3) Data; (4) Precision Health; (5) Environment; and (6) Opportunities, Well-being and Culture.

In December 2017, VCR gave an update on the progress of the Creativity Hubs proposals.

The January 2018 meeting was cancelled due to inclement weather. In February 2018, Robin Cyr, Associate Vice Chancellor for Research, gave an overview of a Federal Demonstration Partnership (FDP) initiative designed to work with federal funding agencies to mitigate administrative burden of managing federally-funded proposals.

In March 2018, the VCR provided updates on: (1) initiatives for research strategic priorities; (2) pan-university center director recruitment; and (3) post-doctoral student parking policy changes.

In April 2018, the FRC reviewed and discussed the proposals submitted for the Creativity Hubs. Proposals were reviewed for innovation, interdisciplinarity, sustainability, and program management. The FRC reviewed, discussed and ranked proposals.

In May 2018, Nathan Blouin (OVCR) discussed research development and support for large research teams at the University, including: (1) identifying funding opportunities by attending NIH open meetings; (2) being strategic about internal funding via Creativity Hubs and restructured URC funding; and (3) supporting large and complex proposals through the ORD (Office of Research Development). Also, additional efforts will include junior faculty training and grants management training, building a campus vocabulary around foundations and what they fund, and limited submissions and awards.