

## **Faculty Research Committee Report for 2021-2022**

Presented at the 02/11/22 Faculty Council Meeting

Members: Stanley Ahalt (Computer Science), Donald Haggis (Classics), Michelle Itano (Cell Biology and Physiology), Michael Kosorok (Biostatistics) J. Victor Garcia-Martinez (Medicine/Infectious Diseases), Committee Chair, Samantha Meltzer-Brody (Psychiatry), Krista Perreira (Social Medicine), Karla Slocum (Anthropology), Sheryl Zimmerman (Social Work)

Background: The Faculty Research Committee (FRC) consists of nine members appointed by the Chancellor. The Committee advises the Chancellor, the Vice Chancellor for Research, 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. The FRC is advisory to the Vice Chancellor for Research.

In September of 2021, Dr. Garcia, the FRC Chair reached out to the office of the Vice Chancellor for Research to plan the agenda and a meeting schedule for the academic year. It was decided that the FRC would continue to attend the bi-weekly Research Deans calls and held committee meetings bi-monthly. The focus for the academic year was left to the discretion of the members of the committee.

The committee met twice as originally scheduled in 2021.

On Thursday October 7, 2021 the FRC met via zoom. Joyce Tan was present on behalf of the Vice Chancellor for Research Terry Magnuson. The committee members introduced themselves to the group. Joyce Tan addressed the group and described the activities that are ongoing at the university. Members discussed what is the value added that the committee can make. Finally, the committee had an extensive discussion regarding the cuts made to the library's budget. As a result, the committee drafted a letter to the Chancellor, the Provost and other members of the Administration advocating for the full restitution of the funds cut from the library's budget.

On Tuesday December 7, 2021 the FRC met via zoom. Terry Magnuson and Joyce Tan were present. Also present was Dr. Myron Cohen, Yeargan-Bate Distinguished Professor of Medicine, Microbiology and Immunology, and Epidemiology, Associate Vice Chancellor for Global Health and Medical Affairs Director, Institute for Global Health & Infectious Diseases. The committee unanimously approved the minutes from the Oct. 7, 2021 meeting. Dr. Cohen then provided an update regarding the current status of the COVID pandemic. The presentation elicited great interest and the committee asked how people contributing to the pandemic at the university could be recognized. Items not covered were to be addressed via email or at the next meeting.

On February 7, 2022, the committee met via zoom, approved the minutes from the previous meeting and discussed important issues regarding the performance of the OSR. Specifically, concerns were indicated regarding delayed turn around especially for sub-contracts. This was reported as having a negative impact on the faculty affected. Dr. Magnuson indicated his awareness of the situation and the different ways in which it is being addressed.

The committee also discussed the implementation of the Concur system, which was characterized as not user friendly, time consuming, increasing workloads, etc. Members expressed significant concern regarding its use for travel into cash economy-based countries where reimbursements were indicated to be a problem. It was suggested that a reset for Concur be considered including a return to previous system until issues are addressed.

Finally, the committee discussed the cuts to the library budget and its consensus was that these cuts directly affect the ability of the university to conduct state of the art research in all disciplines. It recommended that a university wide dialog be initiated to address this important issue.