

Faculty Research Committee Report for 2023-2024

02/23/24 Faculty Council Meeting

Members: Stanley Ahalt (Data Science and Society); Kristy Ainslie (SOP-DPMP); Jennifer Gates-Foster (Classics); Committee Chair: Michelle Itano (Cell Biology and Physiology); Michael Kosorok (Biostatistics); David Margolis (Infectious Diseases); Samantha Meltzer-Brody (Psychiatry); Jane Weintraub (Dentistry); 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.

On Tuesday, November 7th, 2023, the Committee Chair, Dr. Michelle Itano met via zoom with Dr. Penny Gordon-Larsen (Vice Chancellor for Research) to discuss the priorities for the OVCR this coming year and ways in which the Faculty Research Committee could best support those priorities and initiatives and how agendas would be determined and meetings scheduled for the upcoming year. It was decided that the FRC would continue to attend the bi-weekly Research Deans calls and would aim to hold meetings monthly in the spring.

On Tuesday, November 20th, 2023, the FRC met via zoom. Dr. Penny Gordon-Larsen (Vice Chancellor for Research) was present. The committee members introduced themselves to the group. Dr. Itano made some announcements regarding the structure of meetings and the role of committee members. Dr. Gordon-Larsen described the unique perspective that the FRC plays in advising the OVCR. The new roll out of the new Research Data Management Core was discussed, the difficulties depending on recharge agreements to support technical expertise and increasing maintenance costs in core facilities, and trends in seeing faculty being pulled to more clinical (vs. research roles).

On December 8th, 2023, the FRC met via zoom. Dr. Gordon-Larsen was present. The committee shared challenges their researchers are facing and research-related opportunities that they are excited about including a discussion about experiences with HR, IRB procedures and ways to approach funders.

On January 8th, 2024, the FRC met via zoom. Dr. Gordon-Larsen was present. The committee discussed the recent presentations at the Research Deans meetings and experiences from their community with HR, visas and hiring titles and salary bands. The committee decided to invite representatives from HR to the FRC meeting on Feb. 28th to advance the discussion and identify any possible next steps that could be taken collaboratively.

Additionally, the committee decided to invite representatives from the Provost's Office to the FRC meeting on March 20th. Members from the Committee on University Government will also attend the FRC meeting in March, and the agenda will include a discussion about the current charge of the committee and identify opportunities for further interaction between the FRC, the Faculty Council and Provost's Office to enhance the research community.

Recommendations for the Faculty Council:

None at present.