

University Senate Research Committee (USRC)

Meeting Minutes

Nov 10th, 2023

Meeting conducted by Zoom

Members in Attendance: Brittain Mahaffey (Psychiatry & Behavioral Health), Roger Sher (Neurobiology & Behavior), Clara Tran (Libraries), Soosan Ghazizadeh (Oral Biology & Pathology), Qiaojie Xiong (Neurobiology & Behavior), Jason Trelewicz (Material Science), Thomas Robertazzi (Elec. Eng), Jeff B Edwards (Philosophy), Adith Anugu (undergrad student representative), Iris Fineberg (Social Welfare)

Also in Attendance: Marci Lobel (Psychology)

Minutes reviewed and approved from Sep 2023

Introduction of attendees

Guest Speaker: Miguel Garcia-Diaz

Update from OVPR

- 1) Economic development (ED). Split from OVPR, new search for leadership for ED. Innovation and technology transfer will be moved to ED.
- 2) Research development.
 - A) Nina Maung-Gaona returns as AVP of Research Partnerships. She will start with new initiative proposal with network linking academia/industry/government. She will also oversee the proposal development (e.g. climate change).
 - B) University plans to continue seed grants, and supplement with new initiatives (e.g. center for healthy aging)
 - C) To have more integration of academics within the university. Targeted research areas align with faculty hiring.
 - D) Goal is to double research expenditure. Funding portfolio: increase defense funding (e.g. DOD, market some research, clinical research in SOM, collaboration with industry). Panels with faculty sharing experiences and insights on DOD proposal. Potential issues: institutional support, security clearing, digital storage. Discussion: potential political issues with research dependence on military fundings.
 - E) Develop compliance system in IT infrastructure for digital storage.
 - F) Two new staffs for post-award management will be hired in the spring 2024. Difficult in hiring staffs: salary is not competitive (low end in OVPR), hard to integrate people working remotely. Bring 5 interns in OVPR, rotating at different positions.
 - G) Discussion on assisting supplementary documents required from various grant agencies for grant proposals. Centralize some information within the university (e.g. data storage and management).

H) Discussion on undergrad research opportunity. Suggesting to start with summer research; funding for undergrad summer research program.

2023-2024 Meeting Dates:

September 8th

October 13th (canceled)

November 10th (Miguel Garcia-Diaz, VPR, will be the guest speaker)

December 8th (Jamie Saragossi, Interim Associate Dean of Collection Strategy and Management, will be the guest speaker)

February 9th

March 8th

April 12th

May 10th