

Minutes
COMMISSION ON RESEARCH
3:30 – 5:00 pm | December 7, 2023
Zoom

Present: Randy Heflin (presiding), Thomas Archibald, Ella Atkins, Sheryl Ball, Leanna Blevins, Scott Case, Cynthia Devers, Ben Knapp, Barry Miller, Rolf Mueller, Luke Neurauter, Eric Newton, Corinne Noirot, Yuchin Pan, Jonathan Petters, Alexandra Poetter, Dan Sui, Quinn Thomas, Elizabeth White, Lijuan Yuan

Absent with Notice: Carla Finkielstein

Absent: Ronald Gibbons, William Headley, Didar Islam, Elizabeth McLain, Daniel Pauly, Kevin Pitts, Ryan Stewart, Amanda Wolfe

Guests: Evan Lavender-Smith, Justin Lemkul, Kim Linkous, April Myers

Research and Innovation support: Kim Borkowski, Laurel Miner

Randy Heflin called the meeting to order at 3:34 pm. A quorum was present.

1. Adoption of Agenda

A motion was made and seconded to adopt the agenda. The motion passed.

2. Approval of and posting of minutes of November 9, 2023

Randy Heflin noted that these minutes have been voted on electronically and can be accessed on the [Commission on Research drive](#).

3. Presentations

Justin Lemkul, Chair, Commission on Faculty Affairs, provided an update on the Commission on Faculty Affairs's 2023-24 goal related to the representation of postdoctoral and other research faculty in faculty senate governance. Currently, they are gathering data to understand how to modernize the Faculty Senate constitution and bylaws to make sure senators are equitably allocated and representative. Discussion topics included: ensuring that research faculty who are not part of colleges and departments have representation; concerns regarding conflicts of interest that may arise with the ethics committee; whether creating a separate representative body for research faculty would give them a greater voice for their interests that may not be met by Faculty Senate; concern about longevity, capacity, inclusive involvement, and time commitment for those research faculty who are soft-funded; and ensuring that substantial differences in scholarly environments are adequately accounted for. One suggestion is to have a special membership carve-out for research faculty, rather than a representative structure (similar to University Libraries and the School of Medicine).

Jonathan Petters, Associate Director, Data Management & Curation Services, University Libraries, presented a potential opportunity for the COR to provide researcher input on central

IT initiative(s) around research data storage ([presentation](#)). Petters asked members for their interest in forming a small, time-limited, task force within the Commission to represent researcher needs in data storage solutions and to share that information with IT groups as they move forward with initiatives. Luke Neurauter, Barry Miller, Ben Knapp, and Sheryl Ball expressed interest in being part of this effort. Petters will work with Randy Heflin and Dane Skow to decide next steps.

Laurel Miner, Assistant Vice President for Research and Innovation and Chief of Staff, notified the commission that COR Resolution 2023-24A and COR Resolution 2023-24B had their first readings at the University Council Meeting on December 4. At first reading, one question on COR Resolution 2023-24B required COR feedback: what happens if the Vice President has not taken action within 30 business days, as is required by policy. The consensus of the COR was that no edits were required, and that the appropriate action would be to escalate the issue to the Provost at that point.

Leanna Blevins, Assistant Vice President for Health Sciences Education and Student Affairs, Health Sciences and Technology, revisited the document [A Framework for Advancing Anti-Racism Strategy on Campus](#), which outlines how to promote anti-racism at colleges and universities. Members expressed interest in developing an affirmative anti-racism statement on behalf of the COR to be included on the Faculty Senate webpage for affirmation statements ([Statements from Faculty Senate](#)). Randy Heflin, Leanna Blevins, and Cindy Devers will work on a draft statement for the commission's review and consideration in the spring semester.

4. Adjournment

There being no further business, a motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 4:50 pm.