

THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MILWAUKEE
Research Policy and Advisory Committee

Minutes

February 1, 2021; 10:00 a.m.

Via Microsoft Teams

1. Call to order and approval of the agenda

Robin Mello called the meeting to order at 10:04 a.m.

Members Present:

Abigail Amisssah-Arthur, Janis Eells, Marija Gajdardziska-Josifovska (ex officio), Mark Harris (ex officio), Tom Holbrook, Jennifer Jordan, Jay Kapellusch, Robin Mello (chair), Kate Mollen (ex officio), Kristin Roosevelt, Doug Stafford, Anne Widmayer

Members Absent:

Alan Wiseman

Guests:

Kathleen Koch, Kristian O'Connor, Michelle Schoenecker, Kari Whittenberger-Keith (Office of Research)

The agenda was approved as distributed.

2. Approval of the minutes

The minutes of the December 10, 2020 meeting were approved as distributed.

3. Announcements

- Robin Mello gave a report on RPAC activities at the January 28, 2021 Faculty Senate meeting. There were no questions about the report.
- Kate Mollen is the new Director of the Office of Sponsored Programs.

4. Recommendations of the 2030 Research Sub-team

Mark Harris, Vice Provost for Research, summarized the work of the group. He and Kathy Dolan, Chair of the University Committee, were co-chairs of the 2030 Implementation Team which was tasked with creating action plans based on the 2030+ Think Tank work group report. They forwarded the overall report to the Chancellor today. In it, they provided an introduction and extracted and synthesized the recommendations of the four sub-teams (Revising the Undergraduate Experience; Making UWM a Radically Welcoming Institution; School, College and Program Realignment; Research Excellence), and attached the sub-team reports as appendices. Individual sub-team reports ranged from 8 to 75 pages. The entire report will be made available once the Chancellor and Provost have had some time to read and reflect on it.

The Research report was a continuation of themes from past planning exercises, but with more emphasis on some – our work in the community; reality of finances; changes in disciplines, research becoming more team based, increasing interest in entrepreneurship/practical applications.

The report coalesced into four main themes.

1. Workforce development

Flexibility in viewing how people contribute to our mission and how these vary over time and career stages – will need changes to promotion and tenure guidelines

Increasing faculty diversity

Use of Teaching Professor and Research Professor titles (these are Academic Staff positions)

Increasing graduate student stipends

Involving more undergraduate students in research

2. Infrastructure

Need coordination and flexibility on how we support research beyond 1-2 person teams

Increased sharing of equipment and facilities (with appropriate user fee structures)

Revisiting where resources for grant matches reside – Are Schools and Colleges using the increased 150 return in the new budget model to support research?

Compliance – there are increasing external mandates for monitoring and reporting

Revisiting budget model/distribution of resources

3 Need to foster internal and external research collaborations

4. Entrepreneurship, I-Corps (or similar) training (for students, too)

In the ensuing discussion, members emphasized the following:

Graduate student positions and stipends are important. It isn't fair to students entering PhD program to not be able to provide a given number of years of guaranteed support.

Stipends are even more important for 1st generation and students in underrepresented demographics. However, many programs do not have the resources to offer graduate assistantships. Other options are tuition rate changes and scholarships.

We can partner with local businesses for student research opportunities. For undergraduates, service learning courses offer good experience, too.

The College of General Studies has a high workload (4/4), but research is still expected. Having graders or a course release would help.

We need to more effectively communicate the contribution of a college education to the community.

We need to recognize the contribution of non-faculty members. Teaching Academic Staff are underpaid and are critical to UWM's mission and community connections.

5. Other updates from the Office of Research

None at this time.

6. Suggestions for Future Agenda Topics

None were offered.

7. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned by consensus at 11:10 a.m.

Minutes submitted by Kathleen Koch