

THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MILWAUKEE
Research Policy and Advisory Committee

Minutes

May 3, 2021; 10:30 a.m.

Via Microsoft Teams

1. Call to order and approval of the agenda

Robin Mello called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m. There was consensus to add updates from the VPR to the agenda before the election of the chair.

Members Present:

Janis Eells, Mark Harris (ex officio), Tom Holbrook, Jennifer Jordan, Jay Kapellusch, Robin Mello (chair), Kate Mollen (ex officio); Kristin Roosevelt

Members Absent:

Abigail Amissah-Arthur, Marija Gajdardziska-Josifovska (ex officio), Anne Widmayer, Alan Wiseman

Guests:

Kathleen Koch, Michelle Schoenecker (Office of Research); Peter Schwander (ITPC liaison); Melissa Spadanuda, Finance and Administrative Affairs

2. Approval of the minutes

The minutes of the April 5, 2021 meeting were approved as distributed.

3. GFC petition

There was unanimous support for the RPAC co-signing the Graduate Faculty Committee's petition on graduate assistantships.

4. Updates from the Office of Research

Mark Harris announced that campus has approved the addition of a 21K stipend level for 50% academic year Research Assistants. It is expected that natural science departments, the College of Engineering, and a few other units will move to this level. Unlike the last stipend increase, there are no central funds to cover difference for current appointments. The budget tool will be updated so all new appointments on grants (nearly all RA appointments are funded via grants) in relevant areas will be covered. There are continuing discussions of how increases in Teaching Assistant stipends could be funded.

Kathleen Koch posted a link in the meeting chat to lists of awardees for this year's Discovery and Innovation Grant awards and Advancing Research and Creativity awards.

5. Election of Chair

Robin Mello was willing to take on this role again and was elected by acclamation.

6. Research Facilities

Melissa Spadanuda, Associate Vice Chancellor, Facilities Planning & Management, provided an overview of campus space use plans. Some points from the discussion:

- Most state building funding is designated for instructional space and is on a 2-year planning cycle.
- Private donations are starting to have an impact.
- A space optimization team has been formed to solicit ideas for best use of campus space and buildings. Members include deans, the vice provost for research and representatives of some administrative units.
- The Southwest Quad is the next area of focus. There is a master plan from 2010 for this area, but many changes have occurred since then. The most significant change is that the old Chemistry building will not be repurposed (it would be too costly to do so); it will be demolished.
- When space is assigned to a school/college, the owning unit is responsible for upgrades, including technology; central funding comes into play with entire building projects.
- In giving a General Classroom designation to an area, you lose some priority in scheduling, but the space is maintained via central funding.

RPAC members emphasized the need for attention to research, collaborative, and combined instructional and research space in the upcoming discussions of the space optimization team and 2030 working groups.

7. Open Forum

There were no other topics raised.

8. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned by consensus at 11:32 a.m.

Minutes submitted by Kathleen Koch