

THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MILWAUKEE  
Research Policy and Advisory Committee

**Minutes**

December 3, 2021; 2:00 p.m.

**Via Microsoft Teams**

**1. Call to order and approval of the agenda**

Robin Mello called the meeting to order at 2:01 p.m. There was consensus to add research advocacy as an agenda item following updates from the Office of Research.

Members Present:

Paul Brodwin, Liam Callanan, Noelle Chesley, Janis Eells, Jennifer Haas, Ann Hanlon, Mark Harris (ex officio), Jennifer Jordan, Jay Kapellusch, Robin Mello (chair), Michael Pauers, Jason Puskar (ex officio)

Members Absent:

Kate Mollen (ex officio); Kristin Roosevelt; Alan Wiseman

Guests:

Kathleen Koch, Kristian O'Connor, Michelle Schoenecker (Office of Research)

**2. Approval of the minutes**

The minutes of the October 29, 2021 meeting were approved as distributed.

**3. Developing a DEI action plan for research**

This item was postponed until a spring semester meeting as the presenter was unavoidably detained.

**4. Office of Research/Graduate School merger**

Mark Harris described plans for combining administration of the Office of Research and the Graduate School and presented a draft organizational chart. A full merger is not possible without significant changes to faculty policy and procedures, so a shared leadership structure will be used instead. The units already share a UBR and HR and IT staff. Three positions are planned at the associate dean level, with one crossing areas of interest between the units.

**5. Updates from the Office of Research**

Research Assistance Fund – 99 awards have been made since the program launched on September 29; funds will support at least 125 total applications.

Compliance position – the internal organization has been restructured enough to be able to create a much-needed compliance position to monitor ever increasing federal requirements

NCURA review - The Provost has approved funding for an assessment of research operations by the National Council of University Research Administrators. NCURA has experience in assessing many different types of institutions. An example of a review done at UMass-Boston was posted in the meeting chat.

**6. RPAC Advocacy**

RPAC chair, Robin Mello, distributed comments on the current state and future needs for research that were collected at this semester's RPAC meetings. She asked the committee to think about who the intended audience would be besides the Provost and encouraged suggestions/additions to the list.

Discussion included the following points:

- Place less emphasis on R1 status.
- Develop a standard base pay increase beyond Full Professor that is not tied to a rank/title change. This will help with salary compression.
- Separate the items that have budget implications (other than time) from those that do not.
- Include advocacy for research support in the College of General Studies.

Discussion will continue at future meetings.

**7. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned by consensus at 3:30 p.m.