

THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MILWAUKEE
Research Policy and Advisory Committee

Minutes

September 21, 2023, meeting

Via Microsoft Teams

1. Call to order

Michael Pauers called the meeting to order at 3:01 p.m.

Members Present:

Paul Brodwin, Madhusudan Dey, Jennifer Haas, Ann Hanlon, Jennifer Herriges, Tory McCoy, Joshua Mersky, Joseph Mougel, Michael Pauers, and Murad Taani

Members Absent:

David DiValerio

Guests:

Suzanne Joneson (College of General Studies); Anne Kissack, Cindy Marifke, Jeremy Miner, Jeffrey Nytes, Kris O'Connor (ex officio), Michelle Schoenecker, Sam Westcott (ex officio) (Office of Research); and Bonnie Klein-Tasman (Graduate School)

2. Automatic Consent

- A. Agenda
- B. Minutes of the May 16, 2023, meeting

3. Introduction of members

Members briefly introduced themselves.

4. College of General Studies (CGS) research infrastructure

Suzanne Joneson, Chair of the CGS Department of Mathematics and Natural Sciences, discussed the history, research space, research funding, and work expectations at the College of General Studies.

The University of Wisconsin Colleges was established in 1971. It was part of the UW System and came to be composed of 13 local two-year campuses and one online campus. They offered a liberal arts education with direct transfer to any of the comprehensive UW campuses.

The 13 University of Wisconsin Colleges two-year campuses were consolidated in 2017 into four regional centers.

In 2018, the University of Wisconsin Colleges as an institution dissolved and the 13 campuses merged with seven of the four-year campuses of the UW System. The Waukesha and Washington County campuses joined UWM and were incorporated as its own Division and College. The CGS is composed of three departments: Math & Natural Sciences, Social Sciences, and Arts & Humanities.

Workload expectations are different between CGS and the UWM general faculty. CGS faculty are expected to dedicate 70% of their time to instruction (12 contact hours) and their faculty teaches labs; 15% for research (2.5 contact hours); and 15% for service (2.5 contact hours). The UWM general faculty workload is 50% for instruction (6 contact hours) and TAs teach labs and 50% for instruction, research, and service (6 contact hours). Suzanne Joneson noted that there are twice as many instructional contact hours for the CGS faculty.

Research by the CGS is occurring, but with some challenges. There are no assigned spaces, startup funds or support personnel. Most research activities occur in classrooms, prep rooms, or multipurpose spaces. Space and access to equipment is limited.

In general, the CGS faculty are aware of the various UWM internal research awards, but many faculty do not have time to devote to grant writing.

The CGS is hoping to expand their research capabilities through more collaboration with UWM and by relying on resources that are shared with UWM.

5. RPAC member orientation and review charter

Kris O'Connor gave an overview of the committee and its charter.

6. Update on Policy on Responsible Conduct of Research Training

Kris O'Connor stated this policy is intended to provide a general overview of conducting research at UWM and the assurance of integrity. It will also have consequences if the proper steps are not taken. It began with compliance with some federal agencies' requirement of Responsible Conduct of Research training (e.g., NSF, NIH). Campus administration is requiring research integrity training for all faculty and staff who engage in research, so the policy and training components are being designed to reflect that broader population in addition to the specific requirements of external funding sponsors.

Samantha Westcott showed a PowerPoint presentation and discussed the proposed plan to offer a suite of topics that range from an hour-long common overview for faculty and principal investigators to specialized topics such as sponsored projects administration, procurement and travel, research safety and subjects, data and records management and collaborations outside of UWM.

These trainings will be in addition to federal, NSF, and other requirements.

The individual training would be recorded, and researchers could reference them as needed. The goal would be to make the trainings accessible for anyone who is working in research.

7. General Good and Welfare

It was decided that the RPAC will now meet on the second Thursday of the month starting in October due to a conflict with the Faculty Senate schedule.

8. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned by consensus at 4:26 p.m.