

THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MILWAUKEE  
Research Policy and Advisory Committee

**Minutes**

December 14, 2023, meeting

**Via Microsoft Teams**

**1. Call to order**

Michael Pauers called the meeting to order at 3:02 p.m.

Members Present:

Paul Brodwin, Madhusudan Dey, David DiValerio, Jennifer Haas, Ann Hanlon, Jennifer Herriges, Tory McCoy, Joshua Mersky, Joseph Mougel, Kris O'Connor (ex officio), Michael Pauers, Murad Taani, and Sam Westcott (ex officio) (Office of Research)

Members Absent:

none

Guests:

Reed Heintzkill, Anne Kissack, Kathleen Koch, Cindy Marifke, Jeremy Miner, and Jeffrey Nytes

**2. Automatic Consent**

- A. Agenda
- B. Minutes of the November 9, 2023, meeting

**3. Past Business/Old Business**

None

**4. Internal Award Program Feedback**

Kris O'Connor presented brief descriptions of the internal grant programs that are offered by the Office of Research: Research Assistance Fund (RAF), the Discovery and Innovation Grant (DIG) [previously known as the Research Growth Initiative (RGI)], Advancing Research and Creativity (ARC), and the Finish Line.

The general goals for these programs are: Increasing research involvement/productivity, increasing external funding for research, supporting scholarship in areas with limited external funding, supporting research dissemination and fostering research collaboration.

UWM has a goal to double research expenditures. Institutional spending can't dramatically increase, so this is probably going to have to come from federal research dollars, which basically means that federal research dollars will have to triple in order to double overall research expenditures.

There are proposed strategies to increase our portfolio with more large-scale grants by: improving the quality of submissions, incentivizing more PIs to submit grant proposals, or by supporting the PIs who are already successful.

Many feel they don't have the capacity to take on more grants because of our lack of research infrastructure to support them. A bigger constraint is personnel to manage programs and review grant applications.

The Provost feels like the internal award base limits could be reduced. For example, the DIG award amount could be reduced from \$80,000 to \$50,000. This could be difficult for many PIs and would limit the number of course buyouts, post docs, and RAs.

Another thought is to have the ability to contract grant writers to help the faculty instead of using the money towards course buyouts.

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

Sam Westcott noted that she is continuing to work with the UW System instructional design team on the Responsible Conduct of Research Training program.

**6. General Good and Welfare**

None

**7. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned by consensus at 4:25 p.m.