

THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MILWAUKEE
Research Policy and Advisory Committee

Minutes

September 25, 2024, meeting

Via Microsoft Teams

1. Call to order

Tori McCoy called the meeting to order at 3:01 pm

Members Present:

Anna Benko, Madhusudan Dey, Rina Ghose, Jennifer Herriges, Tori McCoy, Joshua Mersky, Joseph Mougel, Kris O'Connor (ex Officio), Nigel Rothfels (ex Officio), Murad Taani, Melissa Tesch, and Sam Westcott (ex Officio)

Members Absent:

Jenny Hutton

Guests:

Scott Genung (Associate Vice Chancellor for IT and CIO), Dan Siercks (Interim Director, UWM Research Computing), Andrew Graettinger, Anne Kissack, Kathleen Koch, Cindy Marifke, Jeff Nytes, and Michelle Schoenecker

2. Automatic Consent

- A. Agenda
- B. Minutes of the May 8, 2024, meeting
- C. RPAC 2023-2024 Annual Report

3. Introduction of Members

Completed

4. Research Information Technology

Scott Genung and Dan Siercks discussed the development of a new IT strategic plan. In the context of research, it would include high performance computing technologies, storage, and web services. They're interested in talking to the RPAC and discussing how to grow the research enterprise.

Part of the overall IT strategic plan is to develop a data adaptive strategic plan that can evolve and change with the future of technology. An IT governance structure is needed to understand what investments are needed by researchers and other stakeholders. Scott and Dan are looking for feedback on how research can be supported and what technologies can UWM invest in to create opportunities.

5. RPAC Member Orientation & Office of Research 2024 Priorities

Kris O'Connor shared that the Office of Research has two basic roles. The first is support for research development, internal grant programs, collaborative research and to manage limited submission opportunities. The second role is related to compliance in regard to conflicts of

interest, effort, pre-award, post-award, award closeout and to develop research policies to ensure compliance with state and federal guidelines.

The RPAC can assist the Office of Research by providing a prospective on proposed policies and by raising issues that have an institutional scope.

Kris reviewed the Carnegie Classification criteria for R1 institutions. He also provided data on how UWM compares to our peer and aspirational institutions in regard to research expenditures.

Proposal quality is emphasized for 2024-25 to improve the hit rate for awards. This can be done through the Office of Research Development Services by finding funding opportunities, proposal development workshops, narrative development support services, etc. Proposal quality can also be improved by college/department level efforts like internal peer reviews and mentoring regarding funding strategies.

Kris asked the RPAC if there are any other ideas to improve proposal quality. Madhu stated that more research infrastructure (equipment) is needed to perform experiments. Rina stated that a way to connect with scholars who specialize in certain areas is needed to form collaborative research teams which are required for big grants.

6. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned by consensus at 4:30 pm.