



Research Advisory Committee (RAC)

Minutes of Meeting: 3/2/23

Circulated: 3/13/23

Approved: 3/20/23

Present: Yulia Sevryugina (Chair), Robert Ploutz-Snyder, Vaibhav Khanna, Nathan Qi, Rebecca Cunningham, Suresh Madathilparambil, Amanda Brown, Hakam Tiba, Jessica Durkin

Absent: Marilia Cascalho, Hui Deng, Claudia Figueroa-Romero, Vania Hinkovska-Galcheva, Vilma M. Mesa, Vitaliy Popov, David Cooper

Guests: Nick Wigginton (Assistant VP for Research – Strategic Initiatives),

Faculty Senate Office: Eric Vandenberghe

11:00am: Call to Order, Approval of Agenda and Minutes

The agenda was approved. The minutes for the January meeting will be reviewed in the 3/20 meeting.

11:03am-11:55am: Amplify Strategy

Summary: Nick Wigginton provided an overview of the Strategy to Amplify Research and Scholarship. There are six pillars that are guiding the strategy.

Pillar 2: Enhance support for foundation-sponsored research.

The benefits of non-profit sponsored research were shared. It is important to take advantage of these opportunities, as they can support a wider range of research. UM's performance in this arena was shared relative to peer institutions. The data will be shared with the committee.

Key findings of the review of pillar 2 include topics of structural challenges, equity and culture, and the varying levels of staffing and support. Issues vary across units regarding low IDC grants. A discussion was held on varying issues that schools face regarding this.

The differences between working with the sponsors for federal research grants vs. Foundation-funded research grants were discussed. A discussion of the effects of these grants on promotion took place.

OVPR is working to address some of the issues identified, and Nick provided a timeline of how OVPR plans to move forward.

Pillar 4: Establish infrastructure to coordinate faculty honorifics

An overview was provided regarding external honorifics. These are awards provided by



organizations outside of UM. The nomination process can vary across units. There are equity issues that can come up in part due to this variation. Areas for improvement are laid out. A key issue is accurately tracking metrics for nominations and outcomes.

There are efforts by the OVPR to address the listed issues. A timeline for moving forward was provided.

Action: Presentation and discussion

11:55am: Adjournment

Respectfully submitted,

Eric Vandenberghe
Faculty Governance Coordinator
Faculty Senate Office