



Research Advisory Committee (RAC)

Minutes of Meeting: 4/21/25

Circulated: 9/10/25

Approved: 9/17/25

Present: Orsolya Lautner-Csorba (Chair), Audrey Bennett, Jesse Capececatro, Magda Ivanova, Alena Stocking (OVPR), Arthur Lupia (Interim Vice President for Research and Innovation), Angelica Previero, Karen Downing, Fadhl Alakwaa, Seth Guikema, Quentin Stout

Absent: Suresh Madathilparambil, Tyler Nix, Mrinal Sarkar, Alex Yasha Yi (SACUA Liaison)

Guests:

Kelcey Stratton, Chief Behavioral Health Strategist

Lisa Prosser, Associate Vice President for Research-Health Sciences and Research Faculty Affairs

Faculty Senate Office: Eric Vandenberghe

1:02pm-1:03pm: Call to Order, Approval of Agenda and Minutes, Announcements

The agenda was approved. The minutes for the March RAC meeting were approved.

1:03pm-1:50pm: Mental Health Resources/Needs

Summary: The Chair introduces Chief Behavioral Health Strategist Stratton. She provides an overview of her background and role. The guest indicates that there are many elevated anxieties right now in higher education.

The presentation begins with the committee members being asked “what does a mentally healthy workplace look like to you?” Members respond with answers including respect for cultural differences, appreciation and respect, and that needs are being met.

The guest shares with the committee the five essentials for workplace mental health and well-being: protection from harm, opportunity for growth, connectivity and community, mattering at work, and work-life harmony. These are Centered on worker voice and equity.

Workplace mental health and well-being best practices are shared:

- Raise awareness about the importance of mental health and well-being
- Manage Psychosocial risks related to work, environment, and culture
- Assess mental health and well-being needs and measure intervention impact
- Provide and promote access to evidence-based, high quality mental health care
- Integrate mental health and well-being into a comprehensive wellness program

The guest discusses the Michigan Well-Being Collective. This collective was started after UM



joined the Okanagan Charter. This was committing the university to take a “holistic and sustainable approach to becoming a health-promoting university.” The well-being action areas are shared, all of which are aimed at promoting a healthy work environment. Further resources shared include models of well-being, focus areas of the office of well-being, a mental health strategic plan and the mental health continuum of care.

The Faculty and Staff Counseling and Consultation Office (FASCCO) contact information is shared. A service specific to the medical school is the Michigan Medicine Office of Counseling and Workplace Resilience. Confidential resources include the faculty and staff ombuds. Further resources include Human Resources, and ECRT.

At the conclusion of the presentation the guest asks the committee for suggestions on how more faculty can be made aware of these resources and information. Suggestions to reach more faculty include having the guest or colleagues attend faculty meetings, developing robust marketing materials, among others.

The guest asks the committee to share barriers that are present that prevent faculty from talking about mental health. A faculty member indicates that there are too many obligations, and faculty are spread very thin. Another member indicates that for some there is a stigma with getting help, as well as paranoia that the resources are not really confidential. It is reiterated that the resources mentioned as confidential are, in fact, confidential.

A member asks if leadership can promote these resources. It is indicated that these resources can be further shared in more ways.

VP Lupia indicates that these are good conversations to have. He indicates that there is more work to do, but good progress is being made.

The Chair thanks the guests for joining the meeting and exploring these topics with the committee.

Action: Presentation and discussion

1:40pm-1:50pm: Updates for VP Lupia

Summary: VP Lupia provides the committee with an update on how actions by the federal government are affecting UM. At this time, ~70 grants have received stop-work orders. VP Lupia indicates that OVPR works with the government to see if work can possibly continue, and if not how to wind down the work appropriately. Bridge funding for affected faculty is discussed. The slowdown in the grant review process is discussed.

The Chair thanks VP Lupia, OVPR, and the committee for their work this year. VP Lupia reciprocates these thanks. As previously scheduled, the OVPR team members exit the meeting.

Action: Update

1:50pm-1:57pm: Year-end Wrap up

Summary: The Chair provides an overview of the plan for the remainder of the academic



year for this committee. A draft report will be written and shared with the committee. Additionally, an anonymous questionnaire will be distributed to the committee for their feedback on the structure and content of the operations of the committee.

Action: Discussion

1:57pm: Adjournment

Respectfully submitted,

Eric Vandenberghe
Faculty Governance Coordinator
Faculty Senate Office