

**University of Central Florida
Research Council Meeting Minutes
[For February 10, 2025]**

Chair: Dr. Linda Walters; Vice-Chair: Dr. Steve Duranceau

- 1) Call to Order [4:02 P.M.]
- 2) Attendees [Per Zoom Participation] The following persons were in virtual attendance.

Name [Voting Member]	College
Brisset, Julie	FSI
Coffee, Lane	COM
Delfyett, Peter	CREOL
Duranceau, Steven	CECS
French, Scot	CAH
Donaldson, Hanna Kerri	COS
Garibay, Ivan	CECS
Ge, Yue (Gurt)	CCIE
Gesquiere, Andre	NTC
Guldi, Melanie	CBA
Huang, Helen*Alternate*	CECS
Johnson, Emily	CAH
Jurca, Titel	COS
Luna, David	CBA
Mansey, Hansen	CECS
Miller, Anne	COS
Neal, 'Darlin	CAH
Norris, Sarah	LIB
Okumus, Fevzi	RCHM
Ram, Daniel	COM
Walker, Larry	CCIE
Walters, Linda	COS
Welch, Greg	CON
Weremchuk, George	CAH
Yalim, Asli	CHPS

Name [Ex officio]	
Harrington, Joe	VPR Designee

Name [Guest]	College
Bhardwaj, Pradeep	CBA
Bochenek, Grace	IST
Chaundry, Shafaq	OR-IT
Colwell, Joshua	COS
Gajentan, Kara	CCIE
Kent-Walsh, Jennifer	CHPS
Keene, Ben	RCI
Khondaker, Saiful	NTC
Listengarten, Julia	CGS
Parks, Griff	COM
Schoenfeld, Winston	OR
Varadraj, Raj	CCIE

- 3) Minutes from the January 13th and 27th Council meetings were approved.
- 4) Old Business.
 - a. The 90 Seed Grants were reviewed; award announcements will be issued this week .
 - b. By-Laws Resolution 2024-2025-5 Adjusting Constituency of UCF Research Council Membership was approved by Faculty Steering which was forwarded for discussion on the Senate floor; the vote is anticipated to occur in Senate chambers on February 13, 2025.
 - c. By-Laws Resolution 2024-2025-9 GRA Stipend Grant Funded Appointments was approved by Faculty Steering which was forwarded for discussion on the Senate floor; the vote is anticipated to occur in Senate chambers on February 13, 2025.

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5) New Business.

- a. The Office of Research IT staff Shafaq Chaudhry (Director, Research Technology) and Ben Keene (RCI) presented an online academic writing platform called Overleaf. Overleaf is an online collaborative LaTeX platform for academic writing. LaTeX is a historic document preparation system. According to the presentation, Overleaf distills the power of LaTeX into a convenient web platform with additional quality-of-life features. Overleaf offers WYSIWYG (visual) editor, collaborative editing of proposals and publications, and allows one to publish directly to arXiv, preprints, and other journals. Following the presentation some questions were asked of the presenters primarily with regards to integration. For more information see <https://www.overleaf.com/edu/ucf>.
- b. Vice President Dr. Winston Schoenfeld (OR), presented an overview of the opportunities, successes and challenges facing Office of Research and the University. For example, Dr. Schoenfeld addressed the disruptive changes occurring at the federal level, such as changes in the NIH will now mandate a 15% overhead cap (versus historical 52% rate). Dr. Schoenfeld's expressed positive comments regarding weathering the many changes occurring so quickly with this new federal administration, and he is confident that the university will address the new long-term overhead allowances appropriately. Dr. Schoenfeld discussed the Seed funding and Equipment fund initiatives (proposals due in early March). He expressed a positive position where OR will continue to invest in support services, and acknowledged the administrative burden that faculty have carried in recent times. On a positive note; Dr. Schoenfeld noted expenditures has risen to \$285 million (NSF funding ending fiscal year 2024); projections for 2025 indicate that this value will rise another \$35 million, with external partnerships increasing, and expressed his excitement where UCF's posture in the state has been changing toward being identified as a high impact university. Dr. Schoenfeld updated the Council on UCF's progress toward achieving Pre-eminence. After his presentation, Dr. Schoenfeld entertained several questions related to increased hires with no support, overhead concerns and increased burdens on faculty. He concluded his time with the Council by making sure we knew his door was open to research faculty should any wish to meet with him regarding any concerns.

6) Other Business. None noted.

7) Adjournment at 4:56 p.m.

8) Next Meeting: Monday, February 24, 2025.