

# Research Council

Minutes for meeting of January 22, 2024, 4:00 p.m.  
Zoom Meeting

Chair: Dr. Linda Walters, Vice-Chair: Dr. David Luna

## 1. Call to Order at 4:02pm

**2. Roll call** was replaced with noting people as they entered the Zoom meeting. In attendance were: Walters, Luna, Klonoff, Ann M., Sonmez, Gesquiere, Shillingford, Guritza, Yalim, Turgut, Eadens, Johnson, Okumus, Weremchuk, Bochenek, Mansy, Garibay, Harrington, Brisset, Kapucu, Yu, Delfuyett, Khondaker, Norris, French, Kuebler.

**3. Approval of Minutes.** Approval of minutes from 11/20/23 and 11/6/23 meetings were approved.

**4. Recognition of guests.** Elizabeth Klonoff (Vice Provost and Dean, College of Graduate Studies).

## 5. Announcements:

Walters presents the schedule for Spring Semester:

- 1/22/24: Graduate Studies & Confidential Data
- 2/5/24: Sandra Sovinski (Deputy General Counsel): Students and IP; Chad Macuszonok (UCF Research IT): What's coming next to replace PI Dashboard
- 2/19/24: Dr. Kuebler and Kathleen Winningham, kNEXT: How can they improve WorkDay experience for faculty?
- 3/4/24: Dr. Schoenfeld – updates plus Q/A
- 3/25/24: TBD
- 4/8/24: TBD

Report: University Excellence in Research Award: Committee consisted of Ann Miller (Chair), Sarah Norris, Damla Turgut, Linda Walters. Committee is currently deadlocked with 2 worthy candidates. Sent names on to OR and Provost.

Dr. Schoenfeld asked Walters if there were any initiatives on campus regarding research-related AI? Second, are there individuals on this meeting who are interested in pursuing AI research initiative at UCF? The following Research Council members volunteered:

- Hansen Mansy

- Emily Johnson
- Dan Eadens
- Scot French
- Grace Bochenek

Walters introduces today's topic of discussion: Dr. Klonoff and Graduate Studies to seek input on issue of Confidential Data used in Theses/Dissertations and a vote on theses/dissertations embargoes.

**6. Old Business.** No old business was discussed.

**7. New Business:**

Dr. Klonoff introduces Ashley Guritza (Director, Office of International Collaboration and Export Control). Guritza explains that some universities have limited, controlled, or banned thesis/dissertation research that includes controlled and classified information or export control information. As Federal research sponsors increase restrictions on the research they fund, research that involves these types of information will become more commonplace. Guritza asks whether the Research Council would support a policy to ban or limit/control theses and dissertations involving such information.

Kuebler asks what is the scope of issues. Guritza gives examples like a policy on Controlling who attends defenses or publication of dissertations.

Kuebler asks if any policies/restrictions can be a matter of degree. Guritza explains that sponsors have different policies about what information can be published. Some don't allow even a "sanitized" version of the work to be published.

Klonoff explains that policy/procedures are needed to ensure clarity. All other schools that allow this work have articulated policy.

Bochenek: Clear policies would only help, especially to maintain relationships with funding agencies that involve this type of information. And this type of work will likely increase.

Klonoff: Since it appears that we want to continue to allow this type of work, her office will prepare policy.

Klonoff explains that UCF has an overabundance of embargoed theses and dissertations. A new policy is needed (see minutes from 11/6/23 meeting for further explanation). She proposes a policy that would allow embargoes with three options, 6 months, 1 year, and 2 years. A justification would be required from students and faculty in order to embargo a document. Extensions would be granted upon a formal request.

Sarah Norris to compile a guide on journal policies on dissertations with regards to embargoed theses/dissertations.

A vote was taken and the Research Council, by acclamation, approved Dr. Klonoff's proposal as stated above.

## **8. Other Business:**

Guesquiere asks about the University task force on research space utilization. It should be added to Research Council agenda.

Harrington responds that research space studies being currently undertaken do not concern actively used space. It is an issue of what space is not being used (or used as, for example, storage).

Harrington and Walters state that, to the best of their knowledge, no dollar amount per square foot formula has been placed by the University. This is something that was only considered by external consultants.

Guesquiere: more transparency is needed about this issue.

Khondaker: Will discuss this issue with Schoenfeld's office and report back to Research Council.

Bochenek notes that the University should report to the Research Council when efforts like this are being taken.

## **9. Adjournment** at 4:59pm.