

Research Council

Minutes for meeting of March 25, 2024, 4:00 p.m.
Zoom Meeting

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

1. Call to Order at 4:03pm

2. Roll call was replaced with noting people as they entered the Zoom meeting. In attendance were: Walters, Luna, Gesquiere, Eadens, Harrington, Khondaker, Yalim, Turgut, López Castillo, Johnson, Okumus, Weremchuk, Welch, Mansy, Listengarten, Brisset, Melanie, Kapucu, Yu, Delfyett, Norris, French, Sonmez, Ge.

3. Approval of Minutes. Minutes from 3/4/24 meeting were approved.

4. Recognition of guests. Saiful Khondaker (Assistant Vice President for Research)

5. Announcements: No announcements were made.

6. Old Business. No old business was discussed.

7. New Business: Khondaker leads discussion on preliminary draft of guidelines for research space allocation at UCF.

Khondaker: the Provost requested guidelines to be implemented by unit leaders (chairs, deans, etc.). Input requested from Research Council.

Harrington: Also, there is an external motivation, to support request for additional research facilities/capacity (about 175,000 sq ft) from state legislature.

Gesquiere: Notes that the document mentions the Provost is the "owner" of the space, which is not correct.

Harrington: Strikes reference

Gesquiere: The document should state that research not in UCF's strategic plan priorities will not be penalized, to ensure academic freedom.

Harrington: Will consider this point

Gesquiere: How will losing research space as a result of guideline implementation impact AESP? It needs to be addressed in the document.

Luna: Should space utilization rates (e.g., total times a lab is used) be added to quantitative measures of space utilization? Also, one potential consideration when

thinking about space is whether it is saving money versus using alternative methods of doing research, in addition to whether it is bringing revenue to the University. In terms of scholarly output, we should ask working papers/manuscripts under review since journal review cycles are long.

Harrington: Noted these points.

Luna: How far in advance should the idle times be identified and communicated?

Khondaker: These issues are up to the unit.

Bochenek: The document needs to account for NTE faculty research outcomes, which include federal technical reports, software/system deliverables, etc.

Khondaker: Noted these points.

Bochenek: How often should space be reviewed?

Discussion: this is a difficult question. A range of time could be provided, or a long time between reviews could be recommended, to provide stability and signal commitment to faculty using the space, or a shorter time, which would provide agility in the system. Alternatively, it could be reviewed on an "as needed" basis. No definitive solution to this issue is provided.

Delfyett: Maybe space could be reviewed at the time of post-tenure 5-year review.

Walters: Maybe a space allocation item could be added to the AESP document (e.g., "is faculty member using space effectively?").

Welch: Future needs for space should be considered, not just present or past use.

Melanie: Is a faculty office considered "research" space when research takes place in that office?

Harrington: No

Welch: How about office needs for staff and/or students funded by grants? Is it covered in this document?

Khondaker: Will consider this issue.

Walters: There is a separate space committee. This is just about research space allocation.

Harrington: The guidelines will emphasize that this is about research space, not evaluation of faculty. Also, they need to clarify the distinction or relation between labs and offices used for research.

Johnson: We need clarity about research spaces shared by different faculty in different units.

Walters: If there are any more comments or feedback, send them to Linda Walters.

8. Other Business:

Harrington: A new PI dashboard will be tested in the next few weeks. He needs testers; the time commitment will not be as substantial as during the first phase of testing. Please send names of volunteers to Joe Harrington.

9. Adjournment at 4:56pm.