

**University of Central Florida
Research Council Meeting Minutes
[For November 18, 2024]**

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

- 1) Call to Order [4:00 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
Donaldson, Kerri	COS
Duranceau, Steven	CECS
French, Scot	CAH
Ge, Yue (Gurt)	CCIE
Guldi, Melanie	CBA
Huang, Helen*Alternate*	CECS
Johnson, Emily	CAH
Lopez Castillo, Humberto	CHPS
Luna, David	CBA
Miller, Ann	COS
Neal, Darlin	CAH
Okumus, Fevzi	RCHM
Ram, Daniel	COM
Welch, Greg	CON
Walters, Linda	COS
Weremchuk, George	CAH
Yalim, Asli	CHPS

Name [Guest]	College
Bhardwaj, Pradeep	CBA
Bochenek, Grace	IST
Colwell, Joshua	COS
Gajentan, Kara	CCIE
Kapucu, Naim	CCIE
Khondaker, Saiful	NTC
Listengarten, Julia	CGS
Parham, Jennifer	CGS
Varadraj, Raj	CCIE
Weishampel, John	CGS
Varadraj, Raj	CCIE
Weishampel, John	CGS
Weishampel, John	CGS
Varadraj, Raj	CCIE
Weishampel, John	CGS

- 3) Minutes from the November 4, 2024, meeting were approved.
- 4) Old Business. Walters shared that the “Seed Grant RFP” is currently live, and that she expects that Research Council will have the opportunity to review and provide feedback on the draft “Equipment Grant RFP” at the first Council meeting in January.
- 5) New Business. Walters requested committee help with the evaluation of applicants for the Excellence in Research Award in the spring. Ann Miller volunteered and agreed to chair the committee. 2-4 more committee members are needed and can share their interest with Walters via email.
- 6) Focus of the November 19, 2024, Research Council meeting was Graduate Research Assistant (GRA) and Graduate Teaching Assistant (GTA) stipends/funding levels. Dr. John Weishampel presented data on other program stipends and programs to the Council, and Jennifer Parham provided supplemental data to respond to questions from the Council membership.

Several Council members expressed the need to increase GTA stipends due to the economic pressure placed on students in our programs, such as methods that included cost-of-living adjustments. A request was made by Dr. Castillo to have GTAs and postdoctoral scholars be included in the new Faculty Senate Committee’s Annual Report on salary comparisons.

Graduate studies planned to collect and provide additional data per the request of the Council to better understand conditions at UCF. Additional topics included student fee impacts (that

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may or not be paid with the stipend depending on whether it was a GTA or GRA), and other considerations.

Dr. Weishampel shared information on the high use of the UCF Food Pantry by graduate students at UCF as another metric of low salaries and student struggles.

Weishampel, Walters, and Senate Chair Steve King have a meeting scheduled with VP for Research Dr. Schoenfeld on Tuesday, December 9. In addition to Dr. Weishampel sharing the metrics, the group will discuss how best to facilitate change. One possible means is via a Faculty Senate resolution. If that is the way forward, the resolution will be brought to Research Council in January.

UCF minimum rates for students for a 0.50 academic year are \$10,000 for a MS candidate and \$12,000 for a PhD candidate. Several websites were provided by Julia Listengarten related to the GTA/GRA stipend discussion and are included herein:

- ✓ Florida State University. Pays a minimum stipend of \$18,700 for graduate assistants on a 0.50 FTE academic year appointment. Link: https://hr.fsu.edu/sites/g/files/upcbnu2186/files/PDF/Publications/GA%20Stipend%20Memo%202023-2024_2024-2025.pdf
- ✓ University of Florida. Pays a minimum salary of \$19,200 for a .50 FTE academic year appointment. Link: <https://admin.hr.ufl.edu/employee-management/positions-and-assignments/student-appointments/>
- ✓ University of South Florida. Pays a minimum of \$21,624 for a doctoral student on a .50 FTE academic year appointment and a minimum of \$15,304 for a master's student on a .50 FTE academic year appointment. Link: <https://www.usf.edu/hr/documents/employment-resources/employee-labor-relations/cba-2022-2025-usf-bot-and-gau.pdf>

7) Other Business. None noted.

8) Adjournment at 4:59 p.m.