

Research Council

Minutes for meeting of October 27, 2025, 4:00 p.m.
Zoom Meeting

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

1. Call to Order at 4:00pm

2. Roll call was replaced with noting people as they entered the Zoom meeting. In attendance were: Walters, Luna, Roney, Gabrus, Dykstra, Yalim, "ca059301," Duranceau, Kinchen, Johnson, Bochenek, Gurt, Vitanov, Kim, Guldi, Kapucu, Hua, Toro, Lighthall, Terra, Norris, Sabri, Kean, Campbell, Jensen, Gurupur, Schoenfeld.

3. Approval of Minutes. Minutes from 10/6/25 meeting were approved.

4. Recognition of guests. Tamara Gabrus (Sr. Director, Research Advancement & Strategy); Dr. Joshua Roney (Director, Research Development).

5. Announcements: No announcements were made.

6. Old Business. No old business was discussed.

7. New Business: Dr. Roney outlines the functions of the Research Development group at the Office of Research and opens the floor for discussion of topics of relevance for his office. Discussion follows the outline provided by Dr. Roney:

1. Faculty Engagement & Capacity Building

- New Faculty Orientation and onboarding support
- RD Essentials workshops (e.g., Finding Funding, specific funder/program info, grantwriting basics)
- Coordination of mentoring programs, networking events, and internal seed funding initiatives
- Special initiative programs (e.g., Grant Writing Academy, Industry Readiness Council)

Comments:

Johnson: Workshops are helpful but it would also help to put more workshop-related resources online for faculty who are not able to attend.

Gabrus: Some elements will have to be in person, but in the future they may post some components online.

Dykstra: Are SEED grants discontinued?

Roney: No; it's just that there is not a current open round.

Walters: Industry partnerships have a lot of potential but it is a very different arrangement from what faculty know and are familiar with.

Gabrus: Agreed. A lot of resources, presentations, help with matching researcher-sponsor will be forthcoming.

Kean: Interactive sessions are helpful for networking and understanding industry perspective.

Luna: Is there a mechanism to identify potential ethical conflicts of interest between university scientific research and industry priorities? For example, regarding the topic of research and expected findings/research methods when a business sponsors research.

Gabrus: Group will work on this issue.

2. Funding Opportunity Identification & Intelligence

- Specialized funding searches tailored to individual PI needs
- Targeted funding alert digests for subscribed faculty
- Coordination of Limited Submissions program
- Competitive intelligence gathering (including collaborator identification)

Comments:

Walters: How are potential collaborators/funding partners found?

Gabrus: Several tools are used. For instance, Academic Analytics to find partners, including local partners; Web of Science; Award Agency database,...

Walters: Why is there such an early deadline for Limited Submissions?

Schoenfeld: It takes time to find reviewers and for the review process. Perhaps the process can be streamlined for "small" proposals, with a less rigorous review.

Walters: That may be a good idea for smaller proposals.

3. Proposal Development & Submission Support

- Proposal preparation planning and document copyediting
- Assistance with SciENCv and supplemental documents
- Coordination of pitch sessions and internal peer reviews
- Limited graphics support for proposal visuals (pilot phase)
- EARLIER program support for large, complex proposals

Comments:

Dykstra: Can Pivot be used for foundation opportunities?

Roney: Yes. Resource Development office can help create a starter search.

Kean: Some announcements on Pivot have very little information or details.

Walters: How much support can OR provide for graphics for proposals?

Gabrus: They can help, but there are some limitations. Largest proposals will be given priority.

Gabrus: Resource Development has different tiers of support: from providing help to academic units' teams, to fully taking over the process for larger proposals, especially when they involve collaborators across institutions/organizations.

8. Other Business: No other business was discussed.

9. Adjournment at 4:53 pm.