

Research Council

Minutes for meeting of October 6, 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, Major, Yalim, Ram, Delfyett, Kinchen, Johnson, Vitanova, Bochenek, Parks, Kim, Listengarten, Guldi, Kapucu, Hua, Terra, Larson, Bhardwaj, French, Kuebler, Jurca, Duranceau, Dykstra, **need names of others f-2-f**

3. Approval of Minutes. Minutes from 9/8/25 meeting were approved.

4. Recognition of guests. Dr. Marc Mendonca, Associate VP for Research and Scholarship.

5. Announcements: No announcements were made.

6. Old Business. No old business was discussed.

7. New Business: Dr. Marc Mendonca introduces himself as the new AVP for Research and Scholarship and opens the floor for discussion of topics of relevance for his office.

Mendonca: Requests information on SEED program.

Walters: Provides SEED grant program description. It particularly benefits researchers who might lose funding due to external factors, to provide resources for a pivot. There was a high level of interest from faculty last year. Program is a valuable resource that should be continued.

Kuebler: OR could be very effective in helping with:

- Facilities: regular maintenance not performed as required (e.g., HVAC). Perhaps it is due to high turnover of employees. More resources needed.
- Grant support: More targeted support, on a customized level, needed for grant applications (e.g., background work for proposals like lists of potential co-PIs, etc.)

Council Member: It would be helpful if OR could help secure funding from private foundations. UCF could use researchers and their work to help promote the University to potential donors.

Council Member: There is a need for data storage and transfer platforms. Data transfers are currently too slow, especially from College of Medicine.

Council Member: Bureaucratic tasks take too much time from researchers' schedules, and systems change too frequently, requiring new training and processes. There are too many forms and documents, and there is a lack of agility for purchasing.

Jurca: Mentions that he is part of a team working on a central storage system for receiving chemicals to UCF. This is an area of need for UCF researchers.

Council Member: Ordering of chemicals and other materials is problematic. Procedures are overly bureaucratic and sometimes not appropriate (e.g., payment at time of order, not at time of receiving).

Walters: Open Access publication fees are too expensive for many faculty. The State of Virginia has been able to negotiate lower rates for all state colleges and universities for Springer journals. Could something similar be negotiated here?

Faculty Member: Faculty review system is overly cumbersome. AESPs, PTR, etc. lead to spending too much time in these tasks and distracts faculty from research.

Mendonca: Given the scarcity of resources at UCF, his office will have to begin addressing issues by prioritizing them. From today's discussion, it appears that data storage and transfer and open access fees may be high priority. Will also try to streamline processes to help faculty apply to more grants.

8. Other Business: No other business was discussed.

9. Adjournment at 5:15 pm.