

# Research Council

Minutes for meeting of September 8, 2025, 4:00 p.m.  
Zoom Meeting

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

**1. Call to Order** at 4:01pm

**2. Roll call** was replaced with noting people as they entered the Zoom meeting. In attendance were: Walters, Luna, Rahnavard, Delfyett, Miller, Dykstra, Yalim, Jensen, Kinchen, Johnson, Vitanova, Parks, Kent-Walsh, Kim, Listengarten, Hua, Lighthall, Terra Dos Santos, Norris, French, Sabri, Duranceau, Ge.

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

**4. Recognition of guests.** Nazanin Rahnavard (Professor, Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering; Faculty Fellow, College of Graduate Studies).

**5. Announcements:** Chair Walters announces that schedule of guests for the semester will be available soon, as guests from the Office of Research and others confirm dates. One potential topic for future discussion will consist of re-reviewing RFPs (e.g., equipment grants).

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

**7. New Business:**

Mentoring Graduate Students

Rahnavard presented work on a graduate student mentorship program (Project Gemini): <https://graduate.ucf.edu/gemini>. This is a new mentoring initiative at the College of Graduate Studies. She asks Council members to help spread the word in their Colleges. Online resources are available at the above link. It is a voluntary program. A template for NSF submissions is available.

Next steps include identifying high-need academic programs (e.g., those with high turnover) and recruiting volunteers.

Walters: Will there be presentations/workshops for students and faculty?

Rahnavard: Yes. Dates will be posted on the website.

Ge: Will there be interdisciplinary mentoring opportunities?

Rahnvard: Yes. There will be a database of mentor volunteers where matches can be made from.

Walters: Template for mentoring component in NSF submissions will be very helpful.

Walters: The College of Undergraduate Studies is also working on a mentoring program for students involved in research.

### Use of Research Facilities by 3<sup>rd</sup> Parties

The Office of Research solicits feedback on the amended policy document for use of UCF research facilities by 3<sup>rd</sup> parties.

Luna: Prior to engaging in 3<sup>rd</sup> party use, according to document, academic units must approve of the use, so this document should not present a problem.

Duranceau: Why is the document and policies being revised now?

Walters: UCF is trying to update procedures, originally formulated in 2017.

Duranceau: Has this policy been used before?

Delfyett: Yes. Several years ago, CREOL had a spinoff that rented space from UCF and the College temporarily until permanent space was found in the Research Park. This is an important option to have in case spinoffs occur, to attract venture capital.

Johnson: The downtown campus also opened up opportunities for 3-D printing.

No other comments on the document were mentioned.

**8. Other Business:** No other business was discussed.

**9. Adjournment** at 4:28 pm.