



# RESEARCH COUNCIL

## MINUTES

**Date: Thursday, February 8, 2018**

**Start Time: 11:03am Adjournment Time: 12:18pm**

**Location: Sandel Hall Room 236**

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<b>CHAIR</b>	Sami Nazzal
<b>SECRETARY</b>	Megan Lowe (temp)
<b>ATTENDEES</b>	Jeffrey Anderson, Joydeep Bhattacharjee, Michael Chenoweth, Judith Kalinich, Megan Lowe, Neil White, Paul Wiedmeier, Karen Witek
<b>ABSENT (excused)</b>	Katherine Boswell, Khalid El Sayed, David Irwin, Jana Sutton
<b>ABSENT (other)</b>	Madison Bonnette, Siva Murru, Richard Thurlkill

### AGENDA

1. Secretary (election – to fill in for David Irwin): Megan Lowe agreed to take minutes for this meeting, as Secretary David Irwin was absent (excused).
2. Attendance: Chair Nazzal took attendance, noting that a quorum was barely reached and commenting that the Council may need to be reduced in number, given how often the Council has faced this situation in the last year. Chair Nazzal also commented on the importance of having a representative from OSPR present at meetings.
3. Minutes: Owing to the aforementioned lack of a regular quorum, the meetings from the last three meetings (that is, all the meetings from Fall 2017) required approval. After review and a brief discussion, Dr. Wiedmeier moved to accept all three sets of minutes as is, with Dr. Chenoweth seconding the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

### OLD BUSINESS

1. Policy 1 – OSPR: Chair Nazzal emphasized that the purpose of this policy is to help the Research Council align properly with OSPR in a two-way relationship where OSPR brings issues to the Council and the Council brings issues to OSPR. Chair Nazzal has requested feedback on this policy and the others listed on the agenda. Dr. Wiedmeier requested clarification regarding Chair Nazzal's request to provide feedback, while Dr. Bhattacharjee expressed concerns about the point of the Research Council. M. Lowe described the Library Committee and its relationship to the Library (advisory not oversight) and suggested that this was perhaps an appropriate approach for the Council.

There was a slight off-topic discussion of digital signatures and how they would facilitate research efforts on campus. M. Lowe agreed to share this concern with CIO Tom Hoover.



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2. Policy 2 – PRAF: This policy appeared to be tabled for the time being.
3. Policy 3 – Costshare: This policy emerged from Dr. Irwin's queries regarding how to charge for the use of square footage in facilities. The comment was made that as a governmental institution, the University cannot charge rent on lab spaces. There is evidently a conflict regarding this issue.
4. Policy 4 – Intellectual Properties: M. Lowe's assessment of policies pertaining to intellectual properties at ULM reveals that it is not clear on the university's website how they are handled and there is no clear policy for them. The UL System has one which is used, as is or slightly adapted/customized, by many schools in the system. Chair Nazzal says that more information is needed at the early stages of the patent-application process.
5. Policy 5 – Student Research Day: The purpose of this policy is to recommend the expansion of Student Research Day to include faculty and other research-oriented activities on campus, such as the Emerging Scholars program. Dr. Wiedmeier discussed what he and the Student Research Day/Week task force have planned for this semester: a week of activities occurring April 9-13<sup>th</sup>. Student poster presentations will be held on Thursday, April 12<sup>th</sup>, in the SUB. He noted that it is the responsibility of the individual Schools to make arrangements for oral presentation times throughout the week for better scheduling. The awards ceremony will be held on Friday, April 13<sup>th</sup>, at 10am in the Library Conference Center and should last about an hour. There was discussion about involving the Innovation Center. M. Lowe offered Library spaces, indicating that Dr. Wiedmeier could direct Schools seeking spaces for presentations to the Library. The question was raised about *when* faculty would present. A policy is needed to address that and otherwise handle/manage coordination of activities. The topic was tabled for the next meeting after Research Week.

### NEW BUSINESS

1. Faculty Spotlight: Karen Witek described the magazine published by the School of Arts, Education, and Sciences which describes faculty accomplishments within the School; it is published once a semester, with other announcements and accomplishments shared via the School's Facebook page. M. Lowe noted the Library's pursuit of an institutional repository (IR), which Chair Nazzal indicated should be an element of this whole endeavor. The committee would function as the mechanism by which individuals could be selected, vetted, and highlighted. Chair Nazzal indicated that a policy recommendation would be needed. It was suggested that other schools in the UL System be consulted for their practices.



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ML mentioned UNO's practices, which include a physical space for displaying the works and products of faculty research. M. Lowe volunteered to begin the policy recommendation and suggested criteria like that used in endowed professorships on campus.

2. Moodle Page: Chair Nazzal wishes to make greater use of the Council's Moodle page as a point of outreach and marketing. Several Council members ventured that this may be difficult, given how Moodle is structured. Chair Nazzal wishes for some material to be visible and modifiable by faculty members not on the Council. Chair Nazzal indicated that he would speak to Kim Taylor in the Computing Center about what is possible in Moodle. Several Council members expressed concerns about using the Moodle page in this way, suggested that the Moodle page is the Council's workspace, and that perhaps a website would be a better mechanism for communicating with faculty.
3. Budget Worksheet: Chair Nazzal commented that the current budget worksheet available through OSPR may need revision. Chair Nazzal wishes Diana Gooden from OSPR to attend Council meetings.
4. Endowed professorships: Chair Nazzal indicated that such professorships usually imply action or activity be carried out and asked how the Council could motivate or support faculty holding professorships. The observation was made that typically tenure/promotion would involve review of such things. The question was raised regarding under whose purview such professorships fall – who administers them? Some appear to fall clearly under Academic Affairs. However, many endowed professorships only last a year. Endowed chairs, however, often last at least three years; again the question was posed regarding whether this issue falls under the Council's purview. Clarification regarding this issue is needed. Therefore, the topic was tabled until clarification could be obtained.
5. Research Misconduct: Chair Nazzal indicated that concerns had been raised regarding research misconduct and questioned what the policy is regarding the consequences of research misconduct. M. Lowe indicated that this issue usually falls under academic integrity and there is a section in the Faculty Handbook regarding academic integrity. It was also asserted that such a topic is typically addressed by the Faculty Senate.

### RECOMMENDATIONS

Though it was not on the agenda, Chair Nazzal raised a topic at the meeting which was briefly discussed: research facilities. Recently, the OSPR website updated and now



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features a listing of certain labs or research facilities available on campus. Chair Nazzal suggested that perhaps the Council could help identify other spaces on campus by identifying what is not listed on OSPR's list. The Council could then connect the administrators of those unlisted spaces with resources for creating websites and getting pictures of those spaces taken by the Office of Marketing and Communication. Chair Nazzal indicated that this was important for several reasons: (a) our own knowledge; (b) promotion of research, either on campus or about what's being done on campus; and (c) as a means of facilitating collaboration with the community, where community means the campus community, the community of other researchers in the state, or entities in the local community. The listing of such spaces and the connection of the administrators of those spaces with the aforementioned resources (websites/pictures) would not be mandatory; the Council would simply be a facilitator.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

M. Lowe made the motion to adjourn at 12:18pm; it was seconded by Dr. White.