



RESEARCH COUNCIL

MINUTES

Date: 3.22.18

Start Time: 11:02am Adjournment Time: 12:29pm

Location: Sandel Hall, Room 236

CHAIR	Sami Nazzal
SECRETARY	Jana Sutton
ATTENDEES	Jeffrey Anderson, Joydeep Bhattacharjee (late due to conflictual meeting), Michael Chenoweth, Khalid El Sayed, Judith Kalinich, Megan Lowe, Neil White, Paul Wiedemeier
ABSENT (excused)	Katherine Boswell, David Irwin, Siva Murru, Karen Witek
ABSENT (other)	Madison Bonnette, Richard Thurlkill
GUESTS	Burton Ashworth, Bill McCown

AGENDA

1. Secretary (election): Motion made by White for Sutton's permanent service as secretary. Seconded by Lowe. Motion passed unanimously.
2. Attendance: Nazzal took roll.
3. Minutes: Lowe motioned to approve the March 1, 2018 minutes as submitted by Sutton. Motion was seconded by White. Motion passed unanimously.
4. Presentation by Dr. Ashworth: Ashworth summarized several in-different-stages-of-development research related initiatives, including: (a) an e-journal to be developed and launched by ULM, (b) an interactive research related website for faculty and students, to be developed and launched, and (c) several research projects that are underway and/or planned.
 - a. Planned e-journal will be connected with the library system and will be open access plan. The goal is for the journal to increase research and collaboration between faculty and students, as well as provide an avenue for students to experience the publication process. Journal will have a review board, including internal as well as external members.
 - b. Planned website with a repository for faculty members to advertise their on-going research projects. The goals of this are to increase inter-professional collaboration, to increase collaboration between students and faculty, to increase the likelihood of students participating in research projects, by alleviating peer pressure of in-classroom requests. Nazzal suggested connecting with Barbara Michaelides to brainstorm how this initiative could assist her in connecting emerging scholars with faculty mentors.



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- c. Research projects include a collaboration with local high schools to test students on their career choices in conjunction with their strengths. The goal of the research is to lead students to make more informed choices with their college major selection, in turn increasing retention and decreasing the amount of time from beginning college to attaining a degree. A secondary goal is the creation of an app which students can access to gain support with their major selection and college progression. This research is being conducted with Dr. Lacy Hitt from Education. A second planned research project is the testing of teachers' anxiety in local high schools during standardized testing. One suggested method of testing this anxiety is through the testing of cortisol levels. El Sayed mentioned several foods/products (i.e., grapefruit and licorice) that increase cortisol levels.

Ashworth stated there were no budgetary requirements to begin these initiatives. Nazzal requested that the council be included in any further planning discussions and/or with seeking membership on any needed planning committee. Lowe made a motion for the council to support and endorse Ashworth in moving forward with seeking approval from Dr. Pani and/or Sutherlin and any other appropriate administrators to create the e-journal and interactive website, each discussed above. Motion was seconded by Anderson. Motion passed unanimously.

5. Student Research Day: Weidemeier discussed changes to the student research symposium. In previous years this has been a one-day event held in the library. This year it will be a week-long event held in the Student Union Building. It is hoped that changes to the format and to a larger location will increase student participation. Student participation has been steady for last 5 or so years, at about 100 students participating in poster competition but only a small number participating in oral presentations. This year, abstracts are due March 30th (Friday). The event will begin April 9th (Monday) and will last through April 13th (Friday). Poster presentations will be held on April 12th (Thursday) with awards being presented on April 13th (Friday).

Weidemeier requested that the council consider methods of including faculty research in future symposiums. He also stated that there is a current need for more poster boards to replace some older ones. Additionally, he requested that the council brainstorm ways of increasing visibility and promotion of event. Lowe



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suggested looking into promoting the event through social media. Nazzal suggested inviting Lisa Miller and/or Julia Letlow to a future council meeting to brainstorm promotion of future research symposiums. Nazzal further suggested including non-research type scholarship/activities in the event, to increase attendance and participation and to showcase other types of faculty/student products, such as art-work.

6. Webpage/Email/Office365: Tabled.
7. New/Old Business: None.