

University of Memphis Research Council (UMRC)
Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, February 6, 2019
UC 261 Senate Chamber

Members in Attendance: Mehdi Amini, Abby Parrill Baker, Lynda Black, Gary Bowlin, Colin Chapell, Remy Debes, John Evans, Ali Fatemi, Ryan Fisher, John Gnuschke, Alfred Hall, Cody Havard, Stephanie Ivey, Wilfried Karmaus, Satish Kedia, Santosh Kumar, Annapoorna Mary, Jim Murphy, Brandt Pence, Chuck Pierce, Sarah Potter, Sajjan Shiva, Tom Sutter, Steve Zanskas, Hongmei Zhang

Brian Waldron designated a proxy: Leigh Falls Holman

Gayle Beck designated a proxy: Jim Murphy

Katherine Lambert-Pennington designated a proxy: Charlie Santo

Members Absent: Gayle Beck, Cheryl Bowers, Dipankar Dasgupta, Katherine Lambert- Pennington, Chuck Langston, Erno Lindner, Kim Oller, Max Paquette, Latrice Pichon, Chrysentha Preza, Kevin Sanders, Brian Waldron designated

Meeting's Call to Order 1:15p.m by Dr. Jasbir Dhaliwal.

Opening Remarks from Dr. Dhaliwal for Push to Carnegie R1 Status

Dr. Dhaliwal welcomed and thanked the Council for their attendance. He then reminded the council of the big push to become a Carnegie One (R1) School and referenced the slides (in the packets): Taking the Next Step and the importance of achieving Carnegie's (R1) highest research activity. The key point is that everyone understands the urgency of this. He encouraged the council to review the slides. One of our biggest goal is to double Ph.D. enrollment and offer a selective post-doc funding program.

Dr. Dhaliwal suggested that the council go to Chronicle website and look at the average salary of full professors at R1 and R2 schools; there is a \$30,000 difference. *If we can reach our goal in obtaining an R1 status, we should all be able to ask for an R1 salary from the state.* This is probably one of the most important endeavors the University has taken on in a long time concerning research.

Consideration of Minutes - November 8, 2018

- Moved – Abby Parrill-Baker
- 2nd – John Evans

There was no discussion, no changes and the minutes were approved.

New Topic – Engaged Scholarship, Guests, Drs. Charles Santo and Alison Happel-Parkin

Dr. Santo explained that Engaged Scholarship is built upon reciprocal relationships between Universities and communities. It requires that educators and students venture beyond the halls of academia to connect with residents and community stakeholders, all of whom play an equally integral role in the Engaged Scholarship process. The University of Memphis was one of the first institutions to receive the Carnegie Foundation's "Community Engagement" designation when it was introduced in 2006. The Engaged Scholarship Faculty Committee is a multidisciplinary group of faculty from departments across the University who support and practice engaged research and learning principles. In its current configuration the ESFC is an ad hoc committee that functions primarily as a support network. The committee meets twice a semester to welcome new members, share ideas and best practices, and discuss opportunities for partnerships, research, and publications. <https://www.memphis.edu/esfc/>

Dr. Dhaliwal noted that it is very important to support this kind of scholarship. He proposed that the council set up a task force to investigate a possible legal structure and asked Dr. Santo to chair it with the support of Mary Earheart Brown.

Dr. Dhaliwal referenced the Urban Child Institute (UCI) announcement recently sent out from the Office of Research and Innovation (December 10, 2018) and its model, Institute of Interdisciplinary Memphis Partnerships to Advance Community Transformation ([iIMPACT](https://www.memphis.edu/iimpact/)) and the coordinated effort to select the best research project proposals for submission to the UCI in March 2019. Interdisciplinary and collaborative research proposals are being sought that meet any aspect of the needs of our community in relation to the two priorities of kindergarten readiness and third-grade literacy. Faculty from all disciplines are encouraged to apply. Preference will be given to applicants that have an interdisciplinary research focus, directly target UCI's funding priorities and collaborate with community partners in implementing impactful programs. Currently funded projects focus on health, poverty, quality early learning care, policy, legal clinics and direct services to families. More information is available at <https://www.memphis.edu/iimpact/programs/index.php>.

This is exactly the kind of effort needed to create non-profit connections to the community. He suggested that this task force also look at this model.

The FCB&E has also set up a research council and a lot of the research they do is very applied. Engaged Scholarship doesn't necessarily have to be non-profit; it can also be for profit. Dr. Dhaliwal asked UMRC members if they wanted to be a part of this task and he also mentioned that one role of the research council to increase research communication on campus. Dr. Dhaliwal then asked the council if they thought this was a good idea because he is hesitant to fund new structures unless he hears from the larger council. Engaged Scholarship is a key part of the research vision of any university.

Dr. Parill-Baker asked if the function of the task force would duplicate the work of the prior task force, or if it would propose a structural integration based on the recommendation from the prior task force. Dr. Dhaliwal mentioned that the task force would become a formal organization of this group and would look at all aspects of the history, the kinds of programs funded, the needs and would to report that back to the council.

Dr. Parill-Baker noted that it is important that we not sub-task force to do what a previous task force just did but take what they did and build on it.

Dr. Ryan Fisher asked that we also recommend that the membership doesn't *necessarily* have to come from the current council to avoid forming a sub-committee of the existing UMRC.

Dr. Dhaliwal agreed that this was a good point.

Dr. Annapoorna Mary suggested the committee has representation from all the colleges.

Dr. John Evans mentioned that the dean or associate dean of research or whoever represents the colleges make the recommendations to Dr. Dhaliwal for membership of the task force.

The following motion was proposed (as understood by Dr. Dhaliwal):

1. Set up a task force with representatives from every college
2. Members can be from this council, but they don't have to be
3. All colleges will send nominations to Dr. Dhaliwal with a copy to Dr. Santo
4. The task force will look at Engaged Scholarship in a broad-based manner including the FCB&E model for profit and aspects non-profit
5. The task force will also meet with high impact people and look at their structure for the UCI Project
6. Contact the UMRC with a 3-page white paper suggesting how we should approach this as a university

Dr. Dhaliwal asked if there was any more discussion for this action; none. **Motion put before the council to vote. All in favor of setting up this "new" task force: unanimous, minus one against; no abstentions.** Dr. Dhaliwal asked the new task force to present a report at the May meeting.

Division News and Upcoming Initiatives

Heather Winters - Director, Office of Sponsored Programs

(refer to documents included in packet)

- New Tools & Resources: Routing and Approval Form (non-Cayuse), Timeline reports (Proposals routed 5 business days, Award processing time) and Canned reports – survey
- Routing and Approval Form: Short form via DocuSign (excludes projects with human or animal subjects, includes projects exempt from FCOI, budget periods shorter than two), one can still use Cayuse if preferred and seek feedback prior to launch (update website, launch training, share broadly).

Deborah Hernandez - Director of Research Development

- Please remind your faculty that every week we are somewhere in a unit offering open hours for proposal help. Every Monday afternoon in our offices, 3–5pm in AD215 and at least once a week we are somewhere across campus. The schedule is on our new website: <https://www.memphis.edu/research/researchers/index.php>
- Look for calls for proposals for the Czech Academy of Sciences Partnership on or about March 1. They are due back May 1. This is for small scale seed grants. A targeted email will be sent out for you to distribute to your faculty.
- Mary Earheart-Brown is working on the Child Institute and that information has been out for a while.
- We have an updated budget template with some fixes and features that you all have been asking for. We will ask various faculty to review it, help us try and break it and we will take that live soon.

- We are conducting a small-scale pilot project using Trello to offer peer review for some proposal documents (currently NIH). Three experienced faculty (Drs. Wilfried Karmaus, Gary Bowlin and Amy Abell) have agreed to give feedback to junior faculty. As soon as we test it and it works, we will take this across campus and look at doing this for other funders as well; probably the next target will be NSF.

Dr. Dhaliwal: Patent Update

Last two years we had 9 – 10 patents. This year we're already up to 3. We have contracted with a small company in Silicon Valley to market our patents.

Task Force Updates/Reports

Council Bylaws: (refer to interim report) Dr. John Evans presented. Q&A re: Honors College should still have representation even though it has no research or degree programs. A motion was proposed to approve Council Bylaws as presented with amendments (per Dr. Dhaliwal). Dr. Abby Parrill-Baker motioned and was second by Lynda Black. A discussion followed as Dr. Karmaus raised a question concerning fair representation of faculty receiving research funds (2nd pg. 2nd bullet point, Article III.) Several members weighed in on the conversation. Dr. Sutter motioned to table the ByLaws, it was second by Dr. Remy Debbes and the council approved unanimously. The document was sent back to the task force for review. Other members were invited to join this task force.

Strategic Research Plans: (refer to interim report) Dr. Hongmei Zhang presented.

Faculty Incentive Pay: (refer to interim report) Dr. Santosh Kumar presented

Intellectual Property: (refer to interim report) Dr. Gary Bowlin presented.

Sponsored Programs, Grants, Contracts & Agreements: (refer to interim report) Dr. Alfred Hall presented.

Research Misconduct: (refer to interim report) Dr. Steve Zanskas presented.

Dr. Dhaliwal suggested a special meeting in March to discuss the Task Force work, however It was later decided no meeting in March but perhaps a ½ day retreat at the end of the semester because of time constraints.

Dr. Zhang mentioned that it is difficult for the Task Forces to get feedback from all the members during the limited time of this meeting. We should look for a better solution because the task forces need the feedback from the council. Dr. Dhaliwal acknowledged her comments, apologized and proposed longer meetings, shorter task force reports (and limited number of reports) per meeting.

Dr. Kumar commented that as we move closer to becoming an R1, in addition to the research funding, the backdrop of publications go hand in hand with the research funding, so we should also increase the number of publications as well. Dr. Dhaliwal's responded that when we get the dashboard, we want those metrics on it too.

Open Forum/Other Business

Dr. Dhaliwal mentioned three other motions to be presented.

1. Dr. Parrill-Baker – NIH for a biomedical research facility

Dr. Parrill-Baker described this new funding opportunity from NIH for a biomedical research facility construction, modernization or renovation for which proposal she was asked to be PI. After discussion with representative from various schools and departments (Biology, Chemistry, Biomedical Engineering, School of Health Studies), it was decided to propose a molecular science research core facility. Some research instrumentations from across campus will be consolidated and new research equipment will be added to stay on the cutting edge of technology. This would be a \$ 6-7MM project.

2. Dr. Hongmei Zhang – The Research Technology Advisory Committee

We are proposing a Statistics Consulting Center on campus. I think this is really fits the goal of the R1 university. We designed a very short survey (less than 5 minutes) that we are going to send to all faculty to get your input for the needs of the center and whether you want to pay a small fee when looking for services. This survey will be sent out soon and all faculty is encouraged to provide feedback.

3. Dr. Mehdi Amini – The Research Council

Dr. Amini is proposing that the U of M Research Council recommends that every college and school on campus sets up a research council to increase the discussion about research issues and their contributions to our push toward our R1 goal.

Dr. Dhaliwal asked the UMRC if they wanted to vote on this and make this a collective recommendation?

Dr. Kumar: it's a laudable goal but at the same time if we want people who are extremely active in research and have them in too many committees, it takes us back to where we came from. I think we must be efficient and cognizant of that as well. I think there should be some way to do it, but I think it should be up to the colleges.

There was additional discussion and questions. Dr. Dhaliwal asked Dr. Amini to summarize in motion form and it will be circulated to the UMRC for the next meeting.

If anyone wants to get a motion on the floor to be considered by the collective group, please send it to Dr. Dhaliwal (jdhaliwl@memphis.edu) at least a week before any meeting.

If anyone wants to get a motion on the floor to be considered by the collective group, please send it to Dr. Dhaliwal (jdhaliwl@memphis.edu) at least a week before any meeting. One issue that has been raised is revisiting the university's policy on what constitutes a research center, institute or bureau. Dr. Dhaliwal and Deborah will look into current policy and get back to the group at the spring meeting to determine next steps.

Dr. Dhaliwal thanked everyone in attendance and apologized for his late arrival cause by an emergency call.

Meeting adjourned at 2:45 p.m.