



Faculty Senate Research Committee Standing Committee Annual Report May 22, 2020 – April 3, 2021

Members of the committee, Faculty Senate year 2020/21: McDonnell (Co-Chair), Sarkar (Co-Chair), Kurtzman (Executive Committee liaison), faculty (voting): Applebaum, Baird, Casey Cohen-Cole, Darcy Mahoney, El-Ghazawi, Engel, Jeong, Kay, Kouveliotou, Kumar, Kusner, Mason (GWSA), Peters, Pintz, Shiklomoano, Subiaul, Warren, Wei, Young, Zderic; postdoc: Cox (voting); GWSA: Mason (voting), ex officio (non-voting): ADRs Downie (CCAS), Freund (GSEHD), Zhang (SEAS), Cornwell (ESIA), Mallinson (SMHS), Hall (SMHS), Miller (SMHS), Geiger-Brown (SON), Hyder (SPH), Sommers (Library), AVP Research Lohr, Provost Blake.

Meetings: The Faculty Senate Research Committee held monthly meetings on the first Friday afternoon of every month via Zoom (September 2020– April 2021). Additional meetings were held over the summer (5/22, 6/5, 6/26, 7/24). The committee has met 13 times.

GW Research Reopening. Due to the pandemic GW research has been significantly affected. Throughout the summer and academic year each meeting presents an opportunity to assess the current GW Research efforts. The FSRC assisted the Research Committee Reopen committee as a form of feedback and helped to guide the implementation of the GW Reopen plan. The GW phased approach, in line with the DC Guidance moved from Phase 1 to Phase 2, with research space at 25% occupancy and buildings are only open with GWID. The committee requested that the definition of ‘research space’ be expanded to include office space that houses proprietary research materials.

Research Restructuring. At the June meeting Provost Blake presented the concept of research restructuring and that a shared resource committee was being formed. The committee has conducted two ecosystem reviews and noted that GW’s investment in a decentralized local model of service has been responsive to the ecosystem recommendations. The committee members at this meeting noted that research staff cuts were being made and a resolution was composed and unanimously approved by committee at the July meeting. This resolution was presented to the Faculty Senate.

The administration has implemented a POD based model for research. The university research infrastructure is now composed on 3 PODS providing research service to all university schools. The POD leaders have provided monthly updates to the committee as the POD structure was being developed and implemented. However, FSRC members continue to voice concern to the level of support being able to be realized given the decrease and transitions in staffing. The committee is thankful to OVPR and POD administration for attending each meeting and engaging with the FSRC.

GW Research Ecosystem/Dashboard. The FSRC has completed two Research Ecosystem Reviews. The objective is an examination of the Research Ecosystem; both in the present form and potential for development to support the University in its quest to be a global preeminent research institution. The ecosystem collaborated with the GW Strategic Planning Committee: High Impact Research Committee. The OVPR has provided monthly updates to the progress in meeting the committees' recommendations. The OVPR is designing dashboards to communicate GW Research metrics to the GW and outside community. The committee is working with OVPR to decide on the top external research metrics and the top internal research metrics. These metrics will be based on committee (ecosystem/strategic planning) recommendations and will be used to monitor and evaluate the GW Research enterprise. The committee supports the existence of two or more type of dashboards; one that is university based and others that are tailored to each school, as well as internal dashboards that may be POD-based that would monitor those metrics that were offered as part of the Ecosystem 1 review (i.e.: research processes). OVPR has presented mock-ups of the dashboard to the committee. However, given the centralization (shared resources) and staff cuts to IT, the real-time dashboards do not have the support needed to be ready for this academic year.

GW Vice Provost of Research. Since July 2020, the position of VP Research has remained unoccupied. On March 4, Provost Blake announced a national search for a vice provost for research. The FSRC is engaged and interested in the hiring process. However, the FSRC also remains critically concerned about the lack of leadership in research during the current crisis, which has seen several critical changes and restructuring, primarily motivated by the financial consideration. As a result, FSRC feels that the research infrastructure has suffered significant losses. The FSRC feels that appointment of an interim VP Research is immediately needed to effectively advocate for research and to steer the research enterprise in this challenging period.