



Faculty Senate

Committee on Research 2021- 2022 Annual Report

Members of the committee, Faculty Senate year 2021/22: McDonnell (Co-Chair), Sarkar (Co-Chair), Kurtzman (Executive Committee liaison), faculty (voting): Applebaum, Baird, Barzani, Bosque-Pardos, Cohen-Cole, Darcy Mahoney, El-Ghazawi, Engel, Kay, Kumar, Kusner, Lagadec, Lill, Medlej, Pintz, Subiaul, Vonortas, Warren, Wei, Westwater, Young ; postdoc: Cox (voting); ex officio (non-voting): ADRs Downie (CCAS), Freund (GSEHD), Zhang (SEAS), Cornwell (ESIA), Mallinson (SMHS), Hall (SMHS), Miller (SMHS), Griffith (SON), Hyder (SPH), Colby (LAW), Tang (GWSB), Sommers (Library), AVP Research Lohr, VP Research Norris, Provost Bracey.

Meetings: The Faculty Senate Research Committee held monthly meetings via Zoom (September – May). Additional meetings were held over the summer (6/4, 7/2, 8/6). The committee has met 11 times.

GW Vice Provost of Research. Dr. Pam Norris after assuming the charge of the VP Research on November 1, 2021, has been regularly attending FSRC monthly meetings. She has been informed about the ecosystem reviews and charges accorded to the committee by FSEC. During April 29 FSRC meeting she reiterated her commitment for improving POD functioning and shared a preliminary vision of her desire to streamline its leaderships with a new leadership council of the PODs.

POD Functioning. The POD leaders have provided monthly updates to the committee as the POD structure has been taking shape and staff positions are being backfilled. FSRC members voiced concerns about the level of support and the HR related difficulties to fully staff the PODs and the OSP. The committee is thankful to OVPR and POD administration for attending each meeting and engaging with the FSRC. POD leaders presented a one-year report on POD organization and functioning during the November meeting. The report indicated that the organizational framework of the POD is still under-development. It noted the difficulties associated with the changing leadership, shared services, COVID-19 and frequent staff departures. It underscored the need for more resources for supporting the research infrastructure. The PODs have not experienced a ‘steady state’. The committee looks forward to working with VP Research Norris to enhance research POD functioning.

ADR presentations. The committee sought presentations from ADRs of all school. During the April 1st and 29th FSRC meetings, ADRs Yang (SB), Griffith (SON), Miller & Mallinson (SMHS), Hyder (SPH), Downie (CCAS), Freund (GSHEDE), Zhang (SEAS), Cornwell (ESIA: written) reported on the research infrastructure of their respective schools. The presentations highlighted strengths and weaknesses, overall productivity, cross-disciplinary activities, and future plans.

Presentation from the Office of Innovation and Entrepreneurship: Mr. Jim Chung from the Office of Innovation and Entrepreneurship made a presentation about their activities to FSRC on January 28th meeting. He also spoke about the GW’s initial effort at Amazon HQ2 engagement.

Resolution on freedom to expend internal research awards (22/10): FSRC discussed the budgetary issues due to the restrictions on internal grants faced by faculty members, especially in disciplines that are usually not funded by external agencies. It resulted in the above resolution requesting accommodations that can allow faculty to plan and budget for multi-year activities.

Board of Trustees Research Representation: FSRC remains committed to advocating for research representation within the structure of the BOT and with the forthcoming presidential search.

May 2, 2022