



# Faculty Senate

## Faculty Senate Research Committee Standing Committee Annual Report May 21<sup>st</sup> – April 7<sup>th</sup> 2023

**Members of the committee,** Faculty Senate year 2022/23: McDonnell (Co-Chair), Sarkar (Co-Chair), Marotta-Walters (Executive Committee liaison), faculty (voting): Applebaum, Baird, Berg, Bosque-Pardos, Cohen-Cole, Darcy Mahoney, El-Ghazawi, Engel, Entcheva, Jeremic, Joubin, Kay, Kumar, Kusner, Mazhari, Mcguir-Keletz, Pintz, Dam, Wade, Wallington, Warren, Westwater, Yeung, ; ex officio (non-voting): ADRs Artino (SMHS), Colby (LAW), Cornwell (ESIA), Downie (CCAS), Freund (GSEHD), Hall (SMHS), Hyder (SPH), Mallinson (SMHS), McNelis (SON), Miller (SMHS), Yang (GWSB), Zhang (SEAS), Sommers (Library), AVP Research Lohr, VP Research Norris, VP Graduate Affairs Subramanian.

**Meetings:** The Faculty Senate Research Committee held monthly meetings via Zoom (September – April) on 09/07/22, 10/23/22, 11/04/22, 12/02/2022, 01/20/23, 03/03/23 and 04/07/23. Each meeting had following standing items on the agenda:

- Report from OVPR (VPR Norris, AVPR Lohr, AVPOSP Ezelikova)
- Report from POD leaders (ADR Downie, ADR Adnan, ADR Miller)

**OVPR and POD Functioning.** The committee is thankful to OVPR and POD administration for attending each meeting and engaging with the FSRC. OVPR and The POD leaders have provided monthly updates to the committee about the issues faced by the units, specifically those related to staffing. FSRC members continued to voice concerns about the HR related difficulties to fully staff the PODs and the OSP and frequent staff departure. OSP recently saw the departure of three senior administrators (AVP Research Integrity Garrity, Director Research Integrity Sanders, Director Research Safety Jais). VP Research Norris kept the committee abreast of the steps that her office took to mitigate the immediate issues arising from these departures including hiring Sonya Hadrigan as an Interim AVP Research Integrity. More resources will be needed for supporting the research infrastructure. AVPOSP Ezelikova made a detailed presentation of the award setup process.

**Research Ecosystem.** The committee was tasked to examine how the centralization of services at the university affected the research ecosystem. Survey responses from voting members noted that shared services/ centralization of IT, Research Administration, and Human Resources were services that had the greatest impact on research. Other service areas that had significant impact included finance and shared facilities. The committee has voted to revisit the two ecosystem reviews performed in 2018 and 2019. The committee was surveyed to assess how has each component of the Ecosystem review had been affected by the GW Shared Services as a whole, pre and post award processing were perceived as most affected followed by resource allocation, research integrity and compliance, and workforce development. The major restructuring of the research administration in the wake of Covid has severely impacted the initial assumptions and the context of the original review. The committee has decided to investigate award processing (pre/post) of the eight topics examined in the two reviews and how the current structures address the issues identified.

**Institute and Center Chartering.** OVPR revised its document for GW institutes and Centers. The GW institutes are now defined as multidisciplinary or interdisciplinary scholarly units involving faculty from two or more schools. The centers are defined as units within individual colleges to be locally administered, reviewed, and overseen by the respective colleges. There was a proposal for FSRC to oversee the process of Institute chartering. In the end in consultation with FSEC, institute chartering was deemed to be an administrative function which doesn't belong to a senate committee. FSRC would help OVPR with the chartering process.

**FSRC interactions with FS Library:** FS Library co-chairs Professors Dugan and Schwindt had a zoom discussion with FSRC co-chairs. They were invited to present their deliberations related to open-access research at GW. The presentation discussed the recent changes by publication houses removing widely materials without prior discussion and thereby adversely affecting the GW academic community. They also noted the 2015 GW Faculty Senate Resolution on open-access policy for research publication. FSRC expressed its support for promoting open access research at GW and requests adequate resources for the library for its proper functioning.

**Board of Trustees Research Representation:** FSRC remains committed to advocating for research representation within the structure of the BOT and are looking forward to engaging with the incoming President to advance the research agenda.