



**USF Senate Research Council**  
**Minutes**  
**March 18, 2024**  
**10:45 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.**  
**Hybrid meeting via MS Teams**  
**In-Person, USFRI Multipurpose Room**

**Attendance**

**Council Members**

Ponrathi Athilingam, Feng Cheng, Elizabeth Hadley, Ganesh Halade, Richard Heller (Chair), Matthew Johnson, James Leahy, Kristian Lynch, Mark Luther, David Simmons (Vice-Chair), Kristina Schmidt, Marilyn Stern

**Council Members Not Attending**

John Adams (Past Chair), Kelli Barr, Emily Shaffer-Hudkins, Taryn Sabia, Kersuze Simeon-Jones, Jenny Qin

**Invited Guests and Other Participants**

Eddie Aikins, Ruth Barr, John Johnson, Sandra Johnson-Austin, Tina Lucas, Allison Madden, Mark McLaughlin, Cerise Mullins, Jorge Rodriquez, Ben Shnitser, Marcia Taylor, Steven Tauber

**1. Call to Order, Review of Agenda**

Richard Heller called the meeting to order at 10:50 a.m.

**2. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meetings: March 4, 2024**

Motion duly made, seconded, and carried; it was resolved that the minutes of the meeting were approved.

**3. Strategies for Expanding Graduate Recruiting – Ruth Barr, Dean Office of Graduate Studies, Marcia Taylor, International Student Services, Jorge Rodriquez, Foreign Influence Compliance Officer, Steven Tauber, Vice Provost for Faculty Administration**

- a. Dean Barr expressed concern about changing legislation affecting international students.
- b. Discussed university admissions, mentioning a 2% decrease in black enrollment and a transition to a new graduate Power BI admission system.
- c. Concern expressed about undergraduates being hired over graduates due to perception of higher value of graduate degree.
- d. Dean Barr emphasized the importance of addressing students' concerns about visa issues and potential job opportunities.

- e. Challenges in recruiting and retaining faculty in STEM fields, including low stipends.
- f. Recruiters are looking to expand into new markets and are considering online open houses and team meetings as a way to reach potential candidates.
- g. Strategies discussed for recruiting PhD students, including targeting specific research areas, and reaching out to potential students directly.
- h. Institutions are discussing how to recruit and hire international students despite challenges.
- i. Discussed creating a proposal to fund graduate education, recruitment initiatives, and strategies for securing funding for graduate student research fellowships.

**4. Update on IDRA application review.**

- a. The peer review process will begin shortly and there was a discussion of the need for external reviewers.
- b. Three reviewers will review each proposal, one who is in the subject matter area, one who is not, and one who is in the middle.
- c. Any faculty on a proposal cannot be a reviewer on any of the proposals, and anyone with a conflict is to let Richard Heller know as soon as possible.
- d. Reviewers will be invited to attend the April 15<sup>th</sup> Research Council meeting for discussion.
- e. Associate Deans for Research have been invited to review proposals.

**5. Update on the Carry Forward Investment Proposal**

- a. David Simmons met with upper administration regarding the carry forward, and there was a sense that their opinion was favorable.

**6. Other Business**

**7. Having completed its agenda, the Council adjourned at 12:16 p.m.**

**8. Next Meeting Scheduled for Monday, April 1, 2024**